



## ***How Do You Define Water?***



As with many of you, this past week was our children's school Spring Break. My family and I had the opportunity to say goodbye to the winter season and ring in the spring by visiting relatives in Arizona. Besides soaking up the much anticipated sunshine, we had the opportunity to hike [Wasson Peak](#) located in the [Saguaro National Park](#). Wasson Peak is part of the [Tucson Mountain Range](#) in the [Sonoran Desert](#). It is surrounded by less assuming hills and other mountains that are dotted with an abundance of cactus of varying species, but most notably by the well known Saguaro. We have hiked this mountain several times on other occasions, and I am always amazed by the wildlife and plants we encounter. It is incredible that they survive in such an arid climate, and the adaptation to living on minimal amounts of water, and by the means they are able to obtain what little water that is available. On our previous

hikes, we would sparsely see a few flowers and cactus blooms here and there, but this year, there was an overwhelming abundance of wild flowers and cactus blooms that made the trail look like it was on a different mountain. Apparently they experienced a decent rain shower the week before that gave birth to these vibrant colors. My experience on this trip has made the slogans we've all heard about water, very evident and true.....



- Without water, everything withers
- Water equals life
- Conserve water, conserve life

No matter which of the many slogans you've seen, they all point to the importance of clean water for not only life to exist, but to thrive. It has never been more evident in time than today. We continue to hear more and more about it in the media. For example, the challenges California is facing, along with much of the west and southwest, the various droughts, etc. Living here in Indiana, we are blessed with a good source and supply for most of the state. Most of us don't think twice about turning on the garden hose to water our lawns and plants, wash our cars, or how many loads of laundry we do in a day, or the time we spend in a long shower. But as time goes on, and industry and development continues in our state, we will continue to face water conservation and the protection of our safe water supplies and sources. Banning Engineering has historically been heavily involved with stormwater, drainage, and the industrial and developmental side of civil engineering, and has always recognized the importance of clean water, and how it plays a vital role in our communities and environment as a whole. In the past few years, Banning Engineering has made a commitment to bolster aid in the clean water challenges we face by expanding our civil engineering services to encompass all facets of drinking water and wastewater...from water supply, distribution, storage, and treatment on the drinking water side, to collection and treatment on the wastewater side. You can visit our [website](#) to better become familiar with our services. I am proud to say that I am part of the growing water team here at Banning Engineering. If you have questions about your existing system or in need of expanding an unserved area, we would be glad to be a partner that can help along the way.

~ Kent Elliott, PE