



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities

Department of Stormwater

204 E. Jefferson Street

Goshen, Indiana 46528

574-534-2201

Stormwater Superintendent:

Dustin Sailor

Stormwater Coordinator:

Jason Kauffman

The City of Goshen is not the only Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community in Elkhart County. The City of Elkhart, Elkhart County (unincorporated areas), and the Town of Bristol are also MS4 communities. Together these communities formed the Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership and together they implement their MS4 programs in order to improve the quality of stormwater runoff that flows into storm drains and local creeks, rivers, and lakes.



www.stormwaterelkco.org

Stormwater Pollution During the Winter Months

A landscape covered in snow is a beautiful sight to look at. After a snow storm we work hard at removing the snow from driveways, sidewalks, and roadways so we can safely travel. The snow, along with whatever it might have covered up, is placed into piles where it remains until temperatures rise above freezing. When the snow begins to melt it transports whatever was collected with it to nearby storm drains or waterbodies. This is called snowmelt.

Snowmelt is a big concern because during the winter months pollutants such as sediment, trash, oils, salts, cigarette butts, etc. accumulate in the snow piles and can be released all at once. This is different from what occurs during the warmer months when periodic rain events will wash away the pollutants that have accumulated on the hard surfaces throughout our city.



There are several things you can do to reduce the impact of snowmelt upon our local water quality:

- ❖ Winterize your vehicle so it does not leak oil, antifreeze, etc.
- ❖ Instead of washing your vehicle at home wash it at a local car wash facility where wash water is treated and flows into the sanitary sewer.
- ❖ Dispose of trash and recyclables appropriately and pickup any trash you may see.
- ❖ Pickup after your pets.
- ❖ Sweep up the extra salt and/or sand from your driveway or sidewalks.

The City of Goshen works hard to reduce the impact of snowmelt upon our local waterways by using only as much salt and/or sand as necessary; sweeping streets when possible throughout the winter months to remove excess sand and/or salt; by removing piles of snow from the Downtown area to a dedicated snow disposal area where snowmelt will soak into the soil and trash can later be picked up; by installing stormwater treatment units; and by sweeping the streets and cleaning out catch basins during the warmer months.

Each of these actions will have a beneficial impact upon our local water quality.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Incentive Program

Last night it rained and your two rain barrels are now full of water, which you will use later in the week to water flowers. Your rain garden captured runoff from your driveway and is visited daily by birds, bees, and butterflies. If you are interested in reducing your stormwater footprint and in attracting wildlife to your home, consider attending one of the upcoming Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Workshops.

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership incentive program offers homeowners the chance to install a rain garden and/or up to two (2) rain barrels on their property.

Eligible Homeowners must live in the Cities of Elkhart or Goshen, the Town of Bristol, or the unincorporated areas of Elkhart County.

Reimbursements of up to \$250 for native rain garden plants or \$50 per rain barrel (maximum two rain barrels per home) are available to eligible homeowners.



Picture courtesy of the SWCD

Rain Gardens collect rainwater and snowmelt runoff in a shallow depression planted with deep-rooted native plants and allow it to soak into the ground rather than drain into storm drains, creeks, and rivers.

Rain Barrels collect rainwater and snowmelt running off of a roof and store it for future use to water plants.

If you are interested in this program you must attend a workshop hosted by the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and submit an application. A visit with a SWCD Conservationist is also required if you are interested in the rain garden reimbursement. For more information and/or to register for one of the workshops, please contact the SWCD at 574-533-4383 ext. 3 or email Debra Jimison at debra.jimison@in.nacent.net. Applications are available here: <http://bit.ly/21cCPVd>.

Workshop Dates and Locations

- ❖ **Wednesday, March 9th, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Rieth Interpretive Center, 410 W. Plymouth Ave, Goshen**
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 6th, 5:00-7:00 pm at Studebaker Park, 1020 McDonald Street, Elkhart**
- ❖ **Tuesday, May 3rd, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens, 1011 N Main Street, Elkhart**

The Great Stormwater Hunt Continues...

Thanks to all of who have joined "The Hunt" and called or emailed the Stormwater Department about illicit discharges or dirt on the road. It is greatly appreciated and your name has been added to the prize drawing in December.

