



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

What is a Watershed?

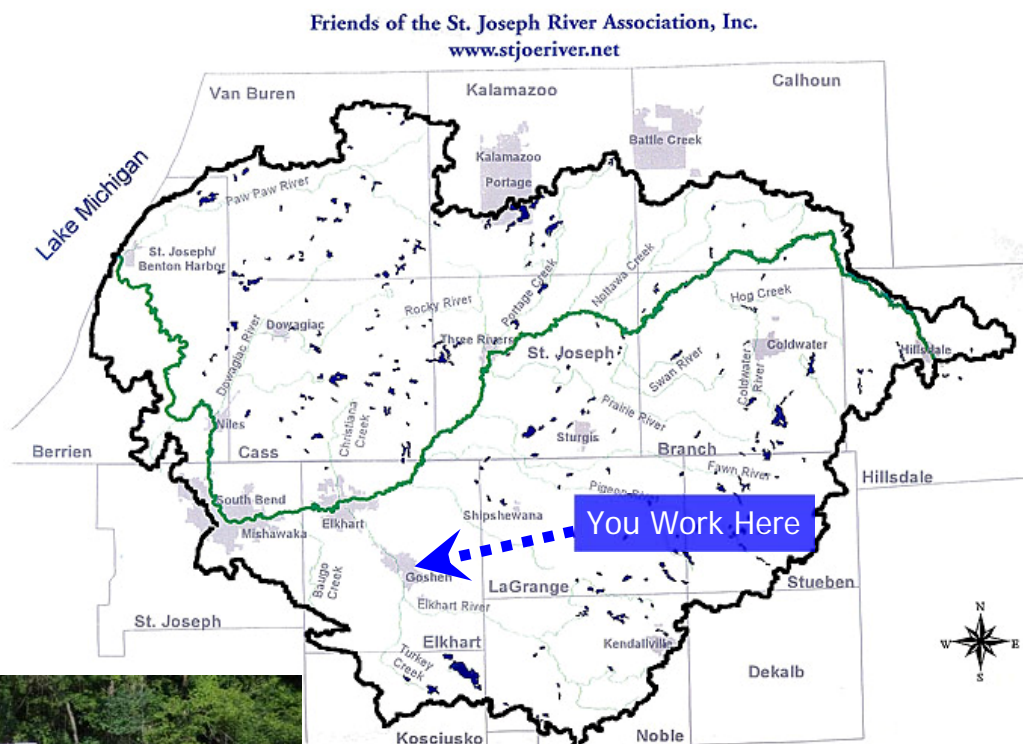
A watershed is not a fancy shed with water in it but in fact it is all the land that drains to one location. Rainfall, snowmelt, and other precipitation falls on the land and flows downstream into a single wetland, lake, stream, or river. Watersheds can be small or large, and just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are almost always part of a larger watershed. The Elkhart River flows through the City of Goshen and is part of the Elkhart River Watershed, which is part of the St. Joseph River Watershed, which is part of the Lake Michigan Watershed, which is part of the Atlantic Ocean Watershed.

Interesting Fact

Lake Michigan is the third largest of the Great Lakes and ranks as the fifth largest lake in the world (by surface area).

Want to know more about the watershed you live in? Type in your zip code at the following EPA webpage to learn more about the watershed you live in:

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/>.



The white stains on the asphalt show how stormwater drains to the catch basin in the middle of the parking lot. This parking lot is a mini watershed.

For more information on a local watershed group for the Elkhart River, called the Elkhart River Restoration Association and the work they are doing visit the following website:

<http://www.elkhartriverrestorationassociation.org/>

Check out their Watershed Management Plan created in 2008.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Threats to Our Great Lakes

Everyone lives in a watershed and our daily activities can and do have a big impact on the water quality within that watershed. Threats to the Great Lakes include the following:

- ❖ Invasive Species (e.g. Asian Carp, Zebra Mussels, Purple Loosestrife, etc.)
- ❖ Habitat Loss
 - The above threats lead to the loss of native species
- ❖ Nonpoint Source Pollution (e.g. sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, waterborne contaminants like *E. coli*, etc.) - this is the largest source of water pollution and the biggest threat to the health of our watersheds
- ❖ Wetland Loss - 50% of the historic wetland in the St. Joe River Watershed have been lost (Friends of the St. Joe River)
- ❖ Trash - especially plastics, which are eaten by wildlife because it looks like food
- ❖ Point Source Pollution - coming directly from a pipe
- ❖ Toxic Chemical Pollution
- ❖ Climate Change

For more information on threats to our watershed check out a National Geographic article from January 2013 called "New Great Lakes Map Highlights Environmental Threats and Opportunities" (type in the article name in your favorite search engine) or the Great Lakes Environmental Assessment and Mapping Project at www.greatlakesmapping.org.



Department of Stormwater

Report an illicit discharge or mud on the street by calling:

574-537-3832
or 574-534-2201



Check out these websites for more information:

- ❖ IDEM's What Is A Watershed? www.in.gov/idem/nps/2369.htm
- ❖ About Our Great Lakes - www.glerl.noaa.gov/pr/ourlakes/
- ❖ The Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition - healthyakes.org/about-the-how-coalition/
- ❖ Friends of the St. Joe River - www.fotsjr.org
- ❖ The USGS Water Science School - <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>

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 (Entries To Date: 21).

