



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— 537-3832

Find out more about why leaves change color in the fall here - <http://bit.ly/1pua4L5>



North Indiana Ave and CR 19 intersection.

Tip #6 – Rain seeping through leaf piles creates a nutrient-rich “tea” that flows along the curb and into nearby storm drains, even if the leaves themselves do not move an inch.

Tip #7 – Leaves can feed plants in your garden or algae in our local waterways depending on where you put them. Show you love the Elkhart River by blowing or sweeping your leaves out of the street and back into your yard.

Tip #8 – If you see a storm drain clogged (like the picture to the right) with leaves clear them away to prevent street flooding.

Remember – Keeping leaves off of our streets helps keep our local waterways clean!

Resource: www.myfairlakes.com/fall_campaign.aspx

Stormwater Tips for the Fall

Labor Day has passed, school has been in session for over a month, and summer will soon transition to fall (September 22nd). With the coming of fall or autumn, also comes the season for viewing beautiful fall foliage, which is a great tourist attraction for many places. Eventually, the leaves will fall to the ground and if they are not disposed of correctly could add nutrients to our local waterways. Therefore, over the coming fall season keep these following tips in mind as you rake, blow, mow, or just leave your leaves where they fall.

Tip #1 – Leaves contain nutrients that fertilize algae, which can turn waterways green. When leaf piles sit on the street, wind, and rain carry them to storm drains and eventually into lakes, streams, and rivers.

Tip #2 – Composting your leaves saves you time and money. Composted leaves make a great fertilizer and are a valuable mulch in vegetable gardens, flower beds, and around trees.

Tip #3 – Composting your leaves saves you time and money. You can replace one fertilizer application each year by using a mulching lawn mower and leaving the mulched leaves right on your lawn.

Tip #3 – Try composting just some of your leaves even if you have too many to compost them all. Think of fallen leaves as an asset instead of a waste. If you pile leaves at the edge of the street make sure to pile them as far away from storm drains as possible.

Tip #5 – The Goshen Street Department provides leaf pickup from mid-October until early December (dates vary from year to year and depends on when the leaves begin to fall) and asks residents to place their leaves near the street curb but not on the sidewalk or in the street. OR take your leaves to the Goshen Environmental Center located just west of the

Local waterways include the Abshire Ditch, Carter Ditch, Elkhart River, Horn Ditch, Leedy Ditch, Millrace Hydraulic Canal, Rock Run Creek, Turkey Creek, and Yellow Creek.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Goshen Fire Department for their quick work to keep diesel fuel from flowing into storm drains on Kercher Road and out to the Horn Ditch after a bad accident at the end of August and to Sunpro Michiana for their work to clean up the spill.



Left - A Drain Blocker Mat and oil-dri berm keep diesel fuel from flowing into a storm drain.

Right - Sunpro employees work to clean up spilled diesel fuel from the roadway.



Just as the Goshen Fire Department and Sunpro Michiana work hard to prevent stormwater pollution after a bad accident you too as City employees and/or residents can prevent stormwater pollution. If you see an illicit discharge situation in our local waterways or near or in a storm drain you may be the only one who does and the Stormwater staff would greatly appreciate hearing about it. In these situations call the Goshen Stormwater Department at 574-534-2201, email Goshen's Stormwater Coordinator, Jason Kauffman, at jasonkauffman@goshencity.com, or fill out a Stormwater Report on the City's "Report an Issue" webpage: www.goshenindiana.org/stormwater. For **emergency spills** that are large, hazardous, or may enter a waterway or storm drain, call 911. Emergency responders will determine whether the Elkhart County Health Department and/or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) should be contacted. When in doubt call 911 to ensure a fast and accurate spill response occurs. **Remember "Only Rain Down the Drain."**



Stormwater pollution issues to be on the lookout for are oil sheens on pavement or water; grease marks or stains around storm drains; dirt tracked, washed, or blown onto the road; concrete washout or white residue on the ground; people pouring or washing liquids into a storm drain or a waterway; discolored water in waterways; or unknown materials on the ground, near a storm drain, or near or in a waterway.

Important Input Needed! *Clear Choices Clean Water*, in cooperation with the Office of the Indiana State Chemist and the Purdue Pesticides Program, is conducting a survey to guide state-wide pollinator protection efforts. How does this impact you? More than 1/3 of all plants or plant products consumed by humans are dependent on insects for pollination. Please help impact future protection efforts by participating today (www.surveymonkey.com/r/pollinate). The first 500 respondents get a FREE 2-ounce bottle of local honey!

