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

Did You Know?

The public trees in Goshen have intercepted or caught **15,218,825 gallons** of stormwater so far this year providing a savings of $412,430 or **$10.58** per tree. This information comes from the City of Goshen's MyTreeKeeper website (goshenin.mytreekeeper.com), which provides current information on the benefits provided by public trees.

This only accounts for the trees on public property (parks, right of way along streets, & public buildings) and does not account for all of the trees on private property. Each and every tree is important in reducing stormwater runoff and if you are interested in learning more about Goshen's Forestry program or volunteering visit their website at: bit.ly/2dK1A4j or call 574-537-0986.

Trees and Stormwater

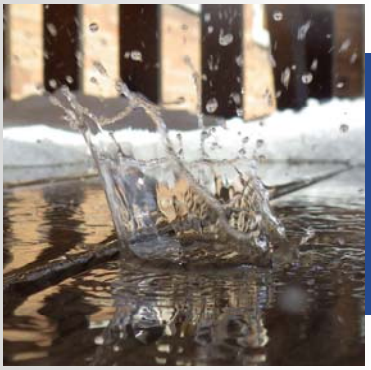
"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second best time is now." - Old Chinese Proverb.

During the hot summer months you will find people parking their vehicles or sitting in chairs at parks in the shade of a tree because it is cooler. Or you will see people taking shelter under a tree during a rain shower because the leaves and the tree trunk catches the rain. As a tree catches the rain, stormwater runoff is decreased or slowed down, soil compaction is reduced, and more water soaks into the ground. Trees also intercept air pollutants in the rain like dust or soot and stormwater pollutants on the ground like oils, pesticides, and fertilizers preventing them from entering our local waterways. Trees provide many other benefits as well, like producing oxygen and cleaning the air, absorbing carbon dioxide - a greenhouse gas, reducing the "heat island effect" of urban areas, and improving property values.

Trees are just one of several natural approachs to manage stormwater runoff called "green infrastructure," while the conventional practice of moving stormwater away from developed areas (i.e. pavement, pipes, and water treatment) is called "gray infrastructure." Besides trees, green infrastructure practices include pervious pavements, rain gardens, bio-retention swales, rain barrels or cisterns, and green roofs. To learn more about green infrastructure check out the EPA's website called Soak Up the Rain - www.epa.gov/soakuptherain.

Many communities throughout the United States are using green infrastructure practices to control stormwater like Chicago's green roofs (bit.ly/2dy9HCD), Portland, Oregon's Green Street Program (bit.ly/1Ma9mBD), Louisville, Kentucky's Urban Reforestation Program (bit.ly/2duZOr8), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Plant a Tree Program (bit.ly/2dOeTpF), and Kansas City, Missouri's 10,000 Rain Gardens initiative (bit.ly/2dwEHnd).

If you are interested in purchasing trees locally, check out the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Michiana Master Gardeners Tree Sale. Information will be available by mid-October on the SWCD's website, www.elkcoswcd.org or by calling 574-533-4383, extension 3.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Happy Water New Year!

In the world of water, October 1st is a special day because it marks the beginning of the 2017 water year.

What is the "water year" you ask? It is the 12 month period from October 1st to September 30th of the following year, which is the beginning of one wet season to the beginning of the next. In our area we receive rain and snow throughout all 12 months and have access to adequate sources of water. But out west, where rain and snow fall mostly in the late fall through early spring, cities and farms are very dependent on snow melt for the water they use.

Another way to visualize the "water year" is the resting/replenishing season where vegetation is not growing and water is soaking into the ground. This is followed by the water consuming season where vegetation grows and is then harvested in the form of flowers for decorations; corn, tomatoes, squash, alfalfa, wheat, and many more plants we use daily to make the food we eat; and beautiful fall leaves for us to enjoy.

Therefore, it is very important to do all we can to ensure stormwater has as much opportunity to soak into the ground before flowing into our local waterways. This is accomplished through stormwater basins, pervious pavement (e.g. Jefferson Street outside of the Goshen Police Department), grassed swales, and rain gardens (e.g. the north side of the Goshen Public Library).

To give you an idea of how much rain and snow fell during the 2016 water year below are numbers recorded at rain gauges around the City; keep in mind the amounts differ depending on how much snow melt was recorded:

- City Rain Gauge located on Bashor Road = 26.77 inches
- City Rain Gauge located near Maplecrest Golf Course = 28.89 inches
- CoCoRaHS Station #59 in Clover Trails = 35.03 inches
- CoCoRaHS Station #48 near Goshen College = 33.86 inches
- Goshen Municipal Airport (data from Weather Underground) = 28.64 inches

Enjoy the 2017 Water Year!

Credit: CoCoRaHS Message of the Day - www.cocorahs.org and Weather Underground Historical Weather - www.wunderground.com/history.

Report an Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see something that doesn't look right please call 574-534-2201, send an email to jasonkauffman@gohsencity.com, or submit a Stormwater Report through the City of Goshen's new "Report an Issue" button in the upper corner of the City's website (www.goshenindiana.org).

Goshen
THE MAPLE CITY