



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities

Department of Stormwater

204 E. Jefferson Street

Goshen, Indiana 46528

574-534-2201

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Trash in Our Local Waterways

Over the past few months the Stormwater Department has been conducting a survey of all of the pipes that discharge stormwater into our local waterways. This survey is conducted in order to determine the condition of each pipe and to identify if there are any issues needing to be corrected like erosion, illicit discharges, excessive vegetation, and pipe damage. The first outfall survey was conducted in 2006 and has continued every five years thereafter, which makes 2016 the third time this survey has been conducted.

We have seen many interesting things these past few months including what is on the bottom of the Millrace Hydraulic Canal when it was empty for construction, the springy turf of an old quaking bog (www.bit.ly/1ToYdwA) and old celery fields near 23rd Street, historic lowland dumping areas along the waterways of Goshen, and trash. Trash? Why is trash interesting? Well, because we have seen so much of it in and around our waterways.



We saw numerous tires (from bicycle to tractor), at least 15 shopping carts, TVs, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bags, pieces of Styrofoam, old chairs, glass bottles (sorry no messages though), and much more.

You can help keep trash out of our local waterways by doing the following:

- ❖ Place trash in the proper containers and do not throw it out your window while driving.
- ❖ Dispose of cigarette butts correctly. For more information on the impacts of cigarette butt litter visit this website: <http://bit.ly/23pfhbD>.
- ❖ Make sure your trash bags are secured when you place them by the street for pickup.
- ❖ Recycle and make sure your recyclables are contained. For more information on what can be recycled check out this website: <http://bit.ly/1NgExPr>.
- ❖ Make sure the dumpster lid where you work or live is always closed.
- ❖ Finally pickup trash you see lying around and throw it away.

The City of Goshen works hard at keeping trash and other pollutants out of our local waterways. One way this is accomplished is by installing stormwater treatment units (eight installed currently with more planned), which passively separates out trash, oils, and sediments from the stormwater before it flows into a waterway (picture at right). The collected stormwater pollutants are cleaned out of each treatment unit annually.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter



Stormwater Pollutant of Concern: Grass Clippings

You cannot go a single day anymore without hearing the sound of or seeing a lawnmower cutting the grass. This is a sign of the return of warm weather, which is welcomed by many. Unfortunately, this daily practice also has a downside when the leftover grass clippings blown into the street are not removed and allowed to wash into a nearby storm drain.

It is important to keep grass clippings and other yard waste from becoming stormwater pollutants because they can clog storm drains leading to drainage issues. They add excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, to our local waterways as they break down causing unwanted algae growth. Excess algae in a waterway can block out sunlight and deplete water oxygen levels, leading to the death of fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Here are some tips on how to protect water quality and maintain your yard:

- ❖ Leave the clippings on the lawn or compost them for a natural fertilizer.
- ❖ Use a mulching lawn mower or at least direct the chute away from the street.
- ❖ Mow often enough that only one-third of the length of the grass is removed.
- ❖ The most important tip is to sweep up or blow grass clippings off the street and back into the lawn



For more information, visit the following website and click on brochures #3 and #4. www.goshenindiana.org/education

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).

