



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities
Department of Stormwater
204 E. Jefferson Street
Goshen, Indiana 46528
574-534-2201

bit.ly/goshen-stormwater

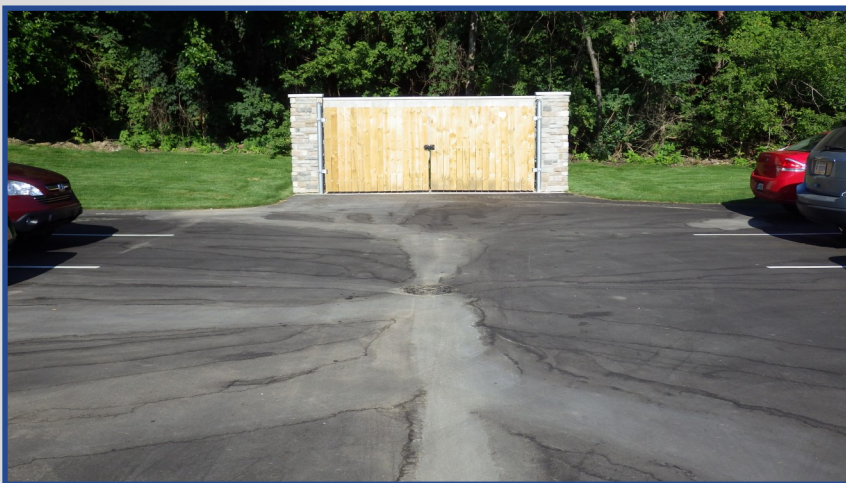
Director of Public Works:
Dustin Sailor
Stormwater Coordinator:
Jason Kauffman— 537-3832

Stormwater Survey

Thank you to all who participated in the 2018 Stormwater Survey. There were 144 responses to the survey with 130 being City employees. The results show a majority of people have a good understanding of the stormwater questions asked. The Stormwater Department will use the survey results over the next few months in our educational efforts.

By the way, for those of you who received an incorrect response on the question "What is a Watershed?", know that you did answer correctly. A watershed is all of the land that drains to a common body of water and

that also includes a parking lot that flows to a retention basin. This was not meant to be a trick question, but meant to show how small a watershed can be. See the picture to the left showing water draining to a storm drain as another example of a watershed.



Stormwater Rule of Thumb

The general Stormwater Rule of Thumb is "Only Rain Down the Drain." If you see anything else going down a storm drain it is considered an illicit discharge and will impact the ability of a stormwater basin to function, the water quality of a local waterway, or possibly the treatment process at the wastewater treatment plant. As you can see in the picture above on the right, muddy water from a construction site and grass clippings from a home are washing into this storm drain because the inlet protection mat has failed and grass clippings were not properly cleaned up. This storm drain flows to a stormwater detention basin and a local waterway where the sediment and grass clippings will impact aquatic wildlife.

If you see anything other than water going down a storm drain, please let the Goshen Stormwater Department know by calling 574-534-2201 or emailing Goshen's Stormwater Coordinator Jason Kauffman at jasonkauffman@goshencity.com.

Please consider becoming a Storm Drain Steward and adopt a storm drain near your home or business. By doing so you can help ensure that only rain goes down the drain. If interested follow this link to learn more: bit.ly/H2O-Volunteer.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Plastic Pollution in Waterways

This Newsletter has touched on plastic pollution in the past and it was decided to focus on this issue once again because a recently released study revealed that even in the deep ocean, plastic debris has been observed. For example, a plastic bag was observed in the Mariana Trench at a depth of 35,755 feet or 6.8 miles deep. Plastic debris has been recorded in the deep ocean up to 621 miles from the coast, which shows that our daily activities can have a big impact on remote areas of the world where humans rarely go.



Photo Credit: International Union for Conservation of Nature

Plastic Debris on a City Storm Drain



Even though Goshen is located hundreds of miles from the ocean, we are only about 91 miles from Lake Michigan as the water flows. Plastic trash is visible on our City streets daily and eventually flows into our local waterways, which flows to Lake Michigan, an ultimately is connected to the Atlantic Ocean.



Trash in the Elkhart River

For a view of what plastic trash looks like on the bottom of the ocean check out this National Geographic video: bit.ly/2LNOzIc and for a video on "How we can keep plastics out of our ocean" check out this NatGeo video: bit.ly/2LRYDQr. We can each do our part to keep our local and global waterways clean of plastic pollution. If you see a piece of trash please pick it up and dispose of it properly.