



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

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

Stormwater Superintendent:
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Stormwater Coordinator:
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Stabilize Bare Areas Now

March 1st to May 30th is a great time to stabilize bare areas in your yard or at your business. The weather conditions are great for growing new vegetation and the roots of the new plants will help stabilize the soil.

Don't forget to use a temporary mulch cover to help moderate soil temperature and moisture, which will help the new plants grow better.

Sediment is a Problem for Local Water Quality

Sediment is the most common pollutant in streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sediment is created naturally through erosion but stormwater runoff from hard surfaces flowing into a stream or river can accelerate the rate of erosion and can transport other pollutants causing water quality issues. Sediment can come from natural and man-made sources like farm fields,

Definition of Sediment - Sediment is defined as the loose sand, clay, silt, and other soil that settles to the bottom of a waterbody.

pasture, forestlands, bare spots in your yard, stream banks, and improperly managed construction sites to name a few. Sediment is a big water quality problem because it can not only smother aquatic habitat and damages fish gills, but it can also transport other potential pollutants like pesticides and fertilizers, which can lead to an increase in algae growth and a cost increase to treat water for drinking (Read about the Toledo, Ohio drinking water crisis from August 2014 – www.nyti.ms/1qRds4F). Additionally, a waterway full of sediment and algae is not a fun place to fish or swim.

Thus, it is very important to minimize bare areas of soil and you can do your part by:

- ❖ Vegetating areas of bare soil as quickly as possible and using a temporary mulch until the vegetation begins to grow.
- ❖ Sweeping soil and other natural debris off of hard surfaces (e.g. driveway or sidewalk) instead of hosing them off.
- ❖ Creating a buffer of deep rooted native vegetation along waterways (this also provides wildlife habitat).
- ❖ Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or in your yard where the wash water is either treated or soaks into the ground.
- ❖ Contact the Goshen Stormwater Department (574-534-2201) to report sediment tracked off of a construction site or running into a local waterbody.

The City of Goshen works hard to keep sediment from reaching our local waterways by using street sweepers to clean up excess sand along the edges of the road after the winter season, by using vacor trucks to remove the accumulated sediment and other debris from catch basins, and by installing stormwater treatment units that help settle out sediment and collect other pollutants before releasing clean water to a waterway.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Sediment continued...

A good example of the impact of sediment on a natural waterway is the Goshen Dam Pond. Over the life of the dam the Pond has slowly filled up with sediment to the point where the some areas are only four to six inches deep. In order to restore some recreational uses and aquatic habitat to the Pond, sediment will be removed by dredging, beginning sometime in 2016. For more information check out the Goshen Dam Pond Sediment Removal Plan put together at the request of the Elkhart River Restoration Association: www.bit.ly/1RmnWIn.

For more information on the impacts of sediment visit these following websites:

- ❖ What is Sediment Pollution? - www.1.usa.gov/1WLiro0
- ❖ Effects of Sediment on Aquatic Environments - www.1.usa.gov/1UOsZUG
- ❖ Stop the Mudness - www.stopthemudness.com/

For more information about the Elkhart River Restoration Association visit their website at www.elkhartriverrestorationassociate.org.



Department of Stormwater

Report an illicit discharge or sediment on the street by calling:
574-537-3832
or 574-534-2201.



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.

Below is a picture of the most recent illicit discharge incident observed flowing into the Horn Ditch. This incident is still being investigated and will be corrected quickly.

