



# 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](http://bit.ly/goshen-stormwater)**

#### **Stormwater Superintendent:**

**Dustin Sailor**

#### **Stormwater Coordinator:**

**Jason Kauffman – 537-3832**

### Stormwater Tips for the Fall

Fall has arrived and the leaves have begun to turn colors. Inevitably, they will fall to the ground and become a source of nutrients to our local waterways if they are not disposed of correctly. The removal of leaves from city streets greatly reduces the amount of nutrients (phosphorus) going to our local waterways and the following tips will help you do your part to protect the water quality of our local waterways.

**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** – 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 #3** – Composting your leaves saves you time and money and can make a great fertilizer for your vegetable gardens, flower beds, and around trees.

**Tip #4** – Replace one fertilizer application each year by using a mulching lawn mower and leave the mulched leaves right on your lawn.

**Tip #5** – 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 #6** – 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 North Indiana Ave and CR 19 intersection.

**Tip #7** – 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 #8** – If you see a storm drain clogged with leaves, clear them away to prevent street flooding.





# A DROP OF NEWS

## Happy New Water Year!

In the world of water, October 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the 2018 water year. A "water year" is the 12 month period between October 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> which is the beginning of one wet season to the beginning of the next. Water is plentiful in the Great Lakes Region throughout the year, but in other areas of the world there are separate wet and dry seasons. To give you an idea of how much rain and snow fell on Goshen, here are precipitation amounts from rain gauges around the City (Note: the City gauges do not always record all of the snow melt and therefore the City gauge numbers are lower):

- ❖ Northwest—City Rain Gauge located on Bashor Road = 32.42 inches
- ❖ Northeast—City Rain Gauge located near Maplecrest Golf Course = 30.71 inches
- ❖ Southwest—CoCoRaHS Station #59 in Clover Trails = 37.23 inches
- ❖ Southeast—Goshen Municipal Airport (data from Weather Underground) = 36.47 inches



### 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@goshencity.com](mailto:jasonkauffman@goshencity.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](http://www.goshenindiana.org)).

