



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities
Department of Stormwater
204 E. Jefferson Street
Goshen, Indiana 46528
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bit.ly/goshen-stormwater

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Spring is Coming

Spring is coming and as the temperatures rise more people will be spending time outside. For City employees, the warmer temperatures will be welcomed and make working outside easier.

For those who work outside, here's a few reminders to help keep stormwater runoff clean:

- ❖ Know the location of spill response materials and what to do if a spill happens. ([March](#) or [August](#) 2017 Newsletter)



- ❖ Check vehicles and equipment for leaks before, during, and after using them. ([August](#) 2015 Newsletter)



- ❖ Make sure materials are returned to secondary containment areas once you are done with them or by the end of the day. ([June](#) 2017 Newsletter)
- ❖ Make sure dumpster lids are closed at the end of every day or before it rains ([April](#) 2017 Newsletter)



- ❖ If a project requires you to work near a storm drain, make sure it is properly protected. ([May](#) 2017 Newsletter)
- ❖ Sweep up grass clippings or sediment from paved surfaces. ([May](#) or [March](#) 2016 Newsletter)
- ❖ Dispose of trash properly (see page 2 of this Newsletter).
- ❖ Follow pesticide and fertilizer application guidelines and don't apply if rain is expected within 24 hours.
- ❖ If you see something other than rain water going into a storm drain, let the Stormwater Department know.

These **tips** can be followed by anyone who works outside for a living or at home. Together as a community we can make sure our local waterways are clean for the enjoyment of all.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Spring Cleaning

Over the past week, the Elkhart County Commissioners and the City of Elkhart have begun talking about an issue that has been visible for months along the edges of roadways, parking lots, and waterways, and that issue is **trash**. As winter has turned to spring it seems trash in these areas has been especially bad this year. If you go walking/biking outside or driving down the road you will see trash.



To test this, the Goshen Stormwater Department walked for 20 minutes (about half a mile) through a residential area near Downtown, and picked up a small shopping bag worth of trash as shown in the picture to the left.

Trash continues to be a major issue in our area and even though it is not the worst stormwater pollutant, it is the most visible and can still cause a lot of harm. In fact, of the 33 editions of the Stormwater Toolbox Newsletter 11 of them have either mentioned or specifically focused on the issue of trash because of its visual impact.

Quick ways you can help keep Goshen and Elkhart County clean are:

- ❖ Don't litter!
- ❖ Pick up the trash you see in your yard or on your walk or run (check out Plogging—bit.ly/stormwater-plogging).
- ❖ Put trash in bags and place them in covered dumpsters or trash cans.
- ❖ Securely cover any trash or other waste being transported to a landfill.
- ❖ Properly dispose of cigarette butts (the filters are made of plastic and do not disappear).
- ❖ Join a community clean-up day or river clean-up.
- ❖ Encourage your friends and family to join you in keeping our community and local waterways clean.

The Goshen Stormwater Department would also like to thank the group of Indiana Master Naturalists who helped clean up trash (two pickup trucks worth) from Abshire Park that was impacted by the February Flooding. (Goshen News, April 10, 2018) (Photo Credit: Ed Shidler)



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, 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).

