

## City of Goshen STORMWATER TOOLBOX

What are Stormwater Basins?

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

#### bit.ly/goshen-stormwater

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runs off and does not soak into the soil. But, the water has to go somewhere and so we build stormwater basins to collect the water so it doesn't go to the nearest low spot and cause flooding and/or

more

surfaces (e.g. roads,

The

damage. Stormwater water basins collect stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the soil, they allow sediment pollution to settle out before the water is released, and they slow the water down so downstream flooding is prevented.

In the City of Goshen, all new development is required to capture a three inch, 24 hour rain event, which has a 10% chance of happening every year. In most areas, the soil will allow the runoff to soak into the ground within 36 hours while in others the water is detained and slowly released to a storm sewer or a waterway. However, in these situations the runoff is always pretreated in some way to remove pollutants (www.soils.org). (sediment, trash, and oils).



This picture shows how the rates of stormwater runoff, infiltration, and evapotranspiration change as the amount of hard surface area increases and the amount of green space decreases. Photo courtesy of Soil Science Society of America



A stormwater basin on the west side of the intersection of SR 15 and Waterford Mills Parkway overpass.

Stormwater basins can be dry or wet but typically in our area they are dry. The basins are stabilized with either stones or vegetation like grass or native plants. The deeper roots of native plants helps water to soak deeper into the soil.

Stormwater basins are an integral part in capturing and pollutants removing from stormwater runoff and help to improve water quality in our local waterways.



# A DROP OF NEWS

### Your Stormwater Newsletter

FOG WARNING

What is FOG you ask? Well, it stands for fats, oils, and grease

stands for fats, oils, and grease and when dumped down a drain (kitchen or storm) or flushed down the toilet, it can cause major problems in sanitary sewers, especially when it mixes with other items flushed down the toilet like wipes, diapers, feminine products and more, and it can impact local waterways.

But I am just one person, you think. Well, when everyone thinks that way it all adds up to a very big problem. Take for example the record fatberg that was removed from a sanitary sewer pipe in Macomb County, located near Detroit, MI, in September of this year. This record fatberg was nearly the size of a blue whale, measuring approximately 100 feet long, 11 feet wide, and 6 feet tall. **OR** the nearly 300,000 gallons of raw sewage discharged into the Huron River by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, caused by debris left in the sanitary sewer after an inspection. **OR** the unknown amount of raw sewage discharged to the Leedy Ditch on the west side of Goshen earlier this year due to a sanitary sewer overflow caused by a combination of FOGs, wipes, and tree roots that created a plug in a private sanitary sewer system.

All of these events could have been avoided if only water and the three P's (pee, poop, and toilet paper) were flushed down the toilet and only water and soap were allowed to flow down the kitchen drain. Help the City of Goshen prevent sanitary sewer overflows or backups and protect water quality by following these tips:

### \* Don't pour leftover cooking grease or oil down the drain.



A clogged pipe caused by the dumping of FOG down the drain. Photo Credit: City of Elkhart

✤ If you can't reuse your used cooking oil, <sup>Wastewater Department</sup> pour it into a sturdy closed lid container and dispose of it in the trash.

✤ Cover the drain in the kitchen sink with a catch basket and empty the food particles into the trashcan as needed. Don't use a garbage disposal.

Scrape plates over a trashcan or dry wipe with paper towels.

✤ Use damp paper towels with a bit of soap to remove grease and oil residue and then wipe with a dry paper towel.

 For more information on what not to flush or pour down a toilet or drain visit: <u>bit.ly/DontFlushOrPour</u>.

**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 <u>jasonkauffman@goshencity.com</u>, 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 (<u>www.goshenindiana.org</u>).





"Flushable" wipes and other debris that

clogged a sanitary pump. Photo