



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

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Stabilization Reduces Sediment

Bare soil on a construction site or a property can easily be washed away or eroded into the street, a storm drain, or a local waterway if proper stabilization measures are not taken. Sediment is a problem because it not only covers up habitats for animals living in the water, but it also helps transport other pollutants that cause water quality problems. Therefore, the sooner bare soil is covered with a temporary mulch cover and vegetation, the better. The best time to plant seed is **March 1st to May 10th and August 10th to September 30th** because the temperature and water availability is the best during these dates.

Temporary stabilization measures, like mulch, help to moderate the temperature and moisture in the soil, allowing seeds to germinate and protecting them from being eaten by wildlife or blowing or washing away. This is even more important when stabilization is occurring outside of the best seeding dates. The following pictures show why temporary stabilization measures and vegetation are so important in preventing sediment from becoming a stormwater pollutant/water quality issue.



Notice how vegetation is growing better where the straw erosion control blankets were used.



Erosion of the bare soil is clearly visible where the straw erosion control blankets ended.



The bare soil eroded and overtopped the silt fence while the existing vegetation stopped the sediment before it reached the water.



All bare soil has been covered with a temporary mulch because it reduces the chance for erosion to happen.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Microplastics in Groundwater

Plastic. Our society has come to rely upon this material to meet many of our daily needs and it does an excellent job. However, it is what happens to the plastic after we are done using it that is a problem. If the plastic is not recycled into another material or item to be reused, it ends up in the landfill or the environment where it will last forever as it breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics.

Just this past February, research was published in the journal Groundwater about the discovery of microplastics in the groundwater located in fractured limestone aquifers in Illinois. The source of these microplastics is not known for certain, but the scientists involved in the study also found household and personal health contaminants in their water samples, so a possible source is residential septic systems. Elkhart County also has a lot of septic systems, so is it possible microplastics are making their way into our groundwater? Only time will tell. To learn more visit bit.ly/MicroPlastics-GW.

Another developing story on microplastics is their presence in the air itself. Scientists found microplastics in the remote and pristine Pyrenees mountains on the border between Spain and France, which had been deposited there by the wind. To learn more visit bit.ly/MicroPlastics-Air.

Stormwater PSA at the Movies

The Goshen Stormwater Department worked in partnership with National CineMedia (NCM) to put together a stormwater public service announcement (PSA) to remind people that only rain is to go down the storm drain. If you are heading to the movies at Linway Cinema over the next six (6) months, make sure you arrive early so you can check out this new public education tool.



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).



Happy Easter

