



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

Director of Public Works:

Dustin Sailor

Stormwater Coordinator:

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Stormwater Specialist

Mattie Lehman—537-3818

a waterway. Keep this picture in mind when working on the job or around the house and dispose of potential pollutants appropriately. Together we can protect our local waterways and the creatures that rely upon it like this black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*).



Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

The general rule of thumb for stormwater is "Only rain down the storm drain." This idea is stressed often because it serves as the basis of Goshen's Stormwater Program. Whenever it rains or snow melts, the water flowing across the hard surfaces of our city have the potential to pickup pollutants like sediment, oil, leaves, grass clippings, trash, dog waste, etc., and transport them, untreated, to a local waterway like the Elkhart River or Rock Run Creek. These stormwater pollutants have a negative impact on the health of these waterways and the fish and other wildlife that depend upon them. Every storm drain acts as a mouth to the



Welcome Mattie Lehman

This month, the Stormwater Department gained a new employee to expand the City's capacity to meet state stormwater requirements and further our community's goals of cleaner, healthier waterways. Mattie Lehman began work in the department on November 2nd as a Stormwater Specialist. She will eventually be taking over many of the construction site inspections concerning erosion and sediment control and will aid in other Stormwater Department functions such as stormwater education and illicit discharge investigation.

Mattie grew up just down the road in New Paris and graduated from Bethany Christian Schools in 2011. She recently returned to the area after obtaining a M.S. degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. Mattie's thesis studies brought her back home as she focused on industrial chemical pollutants in Elkhart County. In addition to her new job with the city, Mattie currently co-teaches a world regional geography course at Goshen College and is a board member and volunteer for Trees for Goshen.





A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Holiday FOG Warning

What is FOG you ask? Well, it stands for fats, oils, and grease. When dumped down a drain (kitchen or storm) or flushed down the toilet, FOG can cause major problems in sanitary sewers—especially when it mixes with other items like wipes, diapers, feminine products, food particles, etc. FOGs can even impact local waterways if a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) occurs.

Defend your drains during the Holidays and all year long by only flushing water and the three P's (pee, poop, and toilet paper) down the toilet and allowing only water and soap to flow down the kitchen drain. Help the City of Goshen protect local water quality and prevent sanitary sewer backups and overflows by following these tips:

- ❖ **Don't pour leftover cooking grease or oil down the drain.**
- ❖ If you can't reuse your used cooking oil, 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. **Avoid use of 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: bit.ly/DontFlushOrPour.**



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

America Recycles Day in Indiana - November 15th

Join Governor Eric Holcomb and Indiana Department of Environmental Management in celebrating the 23rd Annual America Recycles day on November 15th! On this day businesses, government agencies and individuals across the country will consider the importance of recycling and make commitments to reduce waste, make recycling a habit, and consider purchasing recycled products. In 2019, Indiana residents and business diverted more than one million tons of recyclables from municipal solid waste in 2019. Paper and cardboard represented the largest amount, followed by glass. To learn more about recycling in Indiana, visit recycle.IN.gov. More information about America Recycles Day can be found at www.americarecyclesday.org. Governor Holcomb's proclamation is available at bit.ly/23RecyDay.

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 stormwater@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).

