

A Drop of News

July 2021

The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

Your Watershed Address

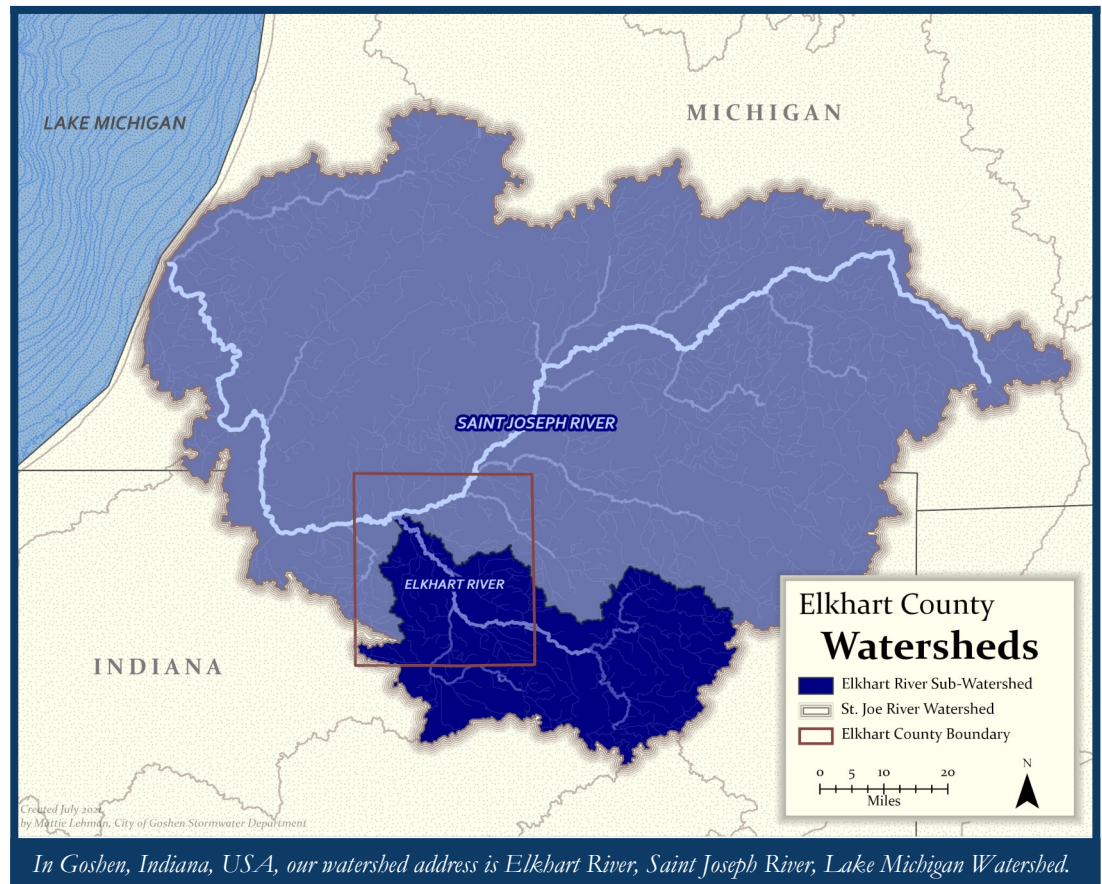


What's a watershed?

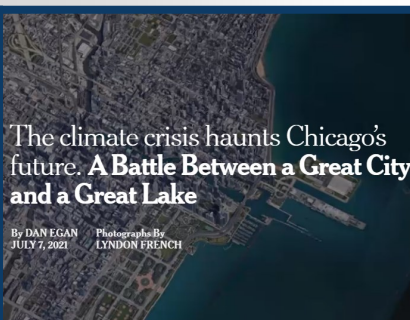
A watershed describes all the land that drains rainfall and other precipitation to a waterbody.

What's a watershed address?

Your watershed address describes all the watersheds you are a part of. Each body of water may be a sub-watershed of an even bigger watershed. For example, Rock Run Creek has it's own watershed but is also a sub-watershed of the Elkhart River where it eventually ends up. Here in Goshen, all of our waterbodies are sub-watersheds of the Saint Joseph River Watershed, meaning our stormwater eventually ends up in Lake Michigan!



In the News: Stormwater and Chicago's Climate Future



Learn how the City interacts with stormwater and the challenges on the horizon: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/07/climate/chicago-river-lake-michigan.html>

As you may have just learned, the City of Goshen is connected to the Great Lakes ecosystem via the Elkhart River and Saint Joseph River Watersheds. Beyond a direct connection through our rivers, we know from the common term in this region of “lake effect snow” that precipitation in Goshen is intimately connected to what is going on in Lake Michigan.

Through an in-depth look at impacts to Chicago, The New York Times recently covered the ways climate change is making Lake Michigan far more unpredictable. Competing factors affecting precipitation and lake levels make Chicago's, and our own, climate future uncertain.

The maps, illustrations, and story telling are a fascinating look at both Chicago's future and past as it continues its long battle to protect the people who live there from the at once life-giving and destructive forces of water. Check it out!



July Pollutant Challenge

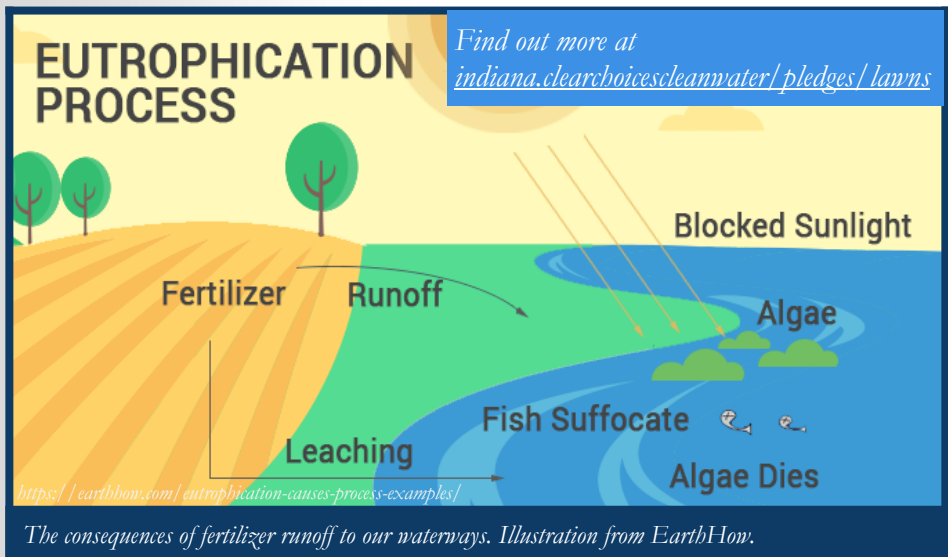
Will you help keep fertilizers out of our waterways?

Why are fertilizers a water quality problem?

Fertilizer runoff is a major issue for the health of our rivers, lakes, and streams as they kick off an entire growth cycle with huge consequences for fish and other aquatic organisms. Excess nutrients in our waterbodies from fertilizers spur unnaturally large and rapid algae growth called algal blooms. This growth uses up oxygen and blocks sunlight needed for underwater plants to produce more. Low dissolved oxygen in the water causes dead zones and is one of the leading causes of fish die offs in our waterways. Eutrophication describes this whole process and is simply illustrated in the image below.

What can I do about it?

While a big source of fertilizer pollution comes from agricultural fields, heavy application in our grassy areas such as lawns, golf courses, and other open spaces also contributes to the eutrophication process. The first step in reducing fertilizer run-off is to reduce the amount applied. Contact the Elkhart County Purdue Extension Office for resources to help evaluate your soil nutrient



content and pick the amount and type of fertilizer that will be most effective. The timing of application also impacts the amount of fertilizer runoff. Avoid applying fertilizer just before a rain event.

Finally, the most effective way to reduce fertilizer pollution?—Go without! Rethinking our love of lawns with non-native grasses is the first step in reducing our dependency on fertilizers. Look for alternative landscaping that builds soil health without the addition of fertilizers.

Report a Pollutant

Stormwater pollutants include anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see a pollutant entering a storm drain, please call 574-534-2201, send an email to stormwater@goshencity.com, or submit a Stormwater Report through the City's "Report an Issue" button on the City of Goshen website, www.goshenindiana.org.

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:
Jason Kauffman 537-3832

Stormwater Specialist
Mattie Lehman 537-3818

