

A Drop of News

The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

September 2021

Water and Sewer Department's Stormwater Services

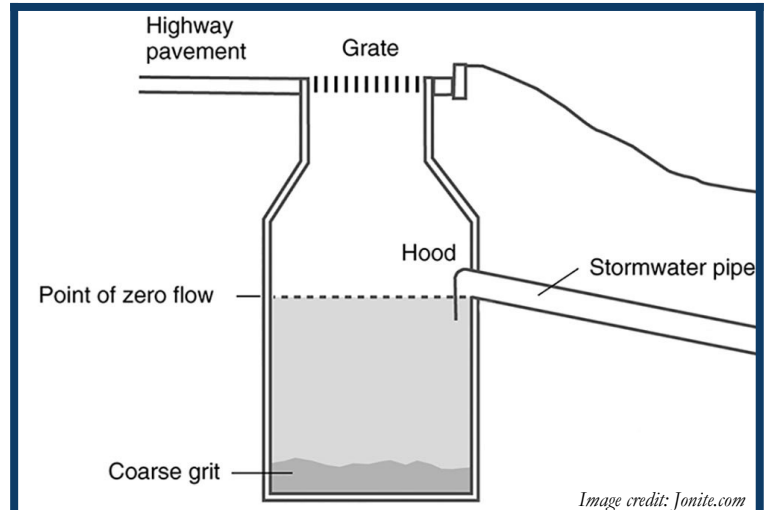


In August we highlighted the work of the Street Department as it relates to stormwater management and this month we would like to highlight the work of another essential Department—Water and Sewer.

Goshen's Water and Sewer Department maintains our stormwater pipe infrastructure, which ensures water quality and prevents localized flooding.

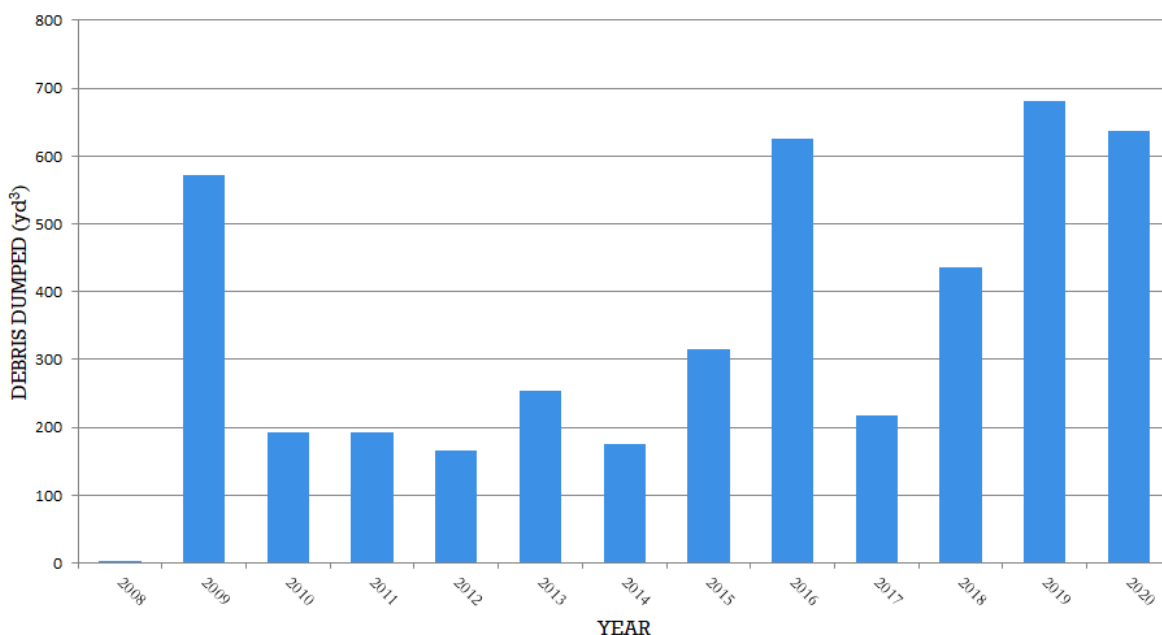
Many of our storm inlets are designed to accumulate heavy pollutants, like sediment, by allowing them to settle out of the water column before traveling through our pipes to waterways. The Water and Sewer Department works throughout the year to make sure the accumulated debris is periodically cleaned out (see chart).

The Department also tracks and repairs broken stormwater pipes. Collapsed stormwater pipes can cause localized flooding by creating stormwater back-ups in areas that normally would not have water issues. Sinkholes are often a good indicator of a broken pipe. If you see a sinkhole or other signs of drainage back-ups, report it! During regular 7:00am-4:00pm weekday hours, Water and Sewer can be reached at 574-534-5306. In the case of *emergencies* after hours, call 574-238-0723.



The space where grit accumulates is called a "sump" which helps trap pollutants.

Cubic Yards of Debris Removed from Catch Bains



The Water and Sewer Department has cleared about 4,470 cubic yards of debris from our storm drains since 2008. That's an amount equivalent to filling one and 1/3 Olympic-sized swimming pools!



September Pollutant Challenge

Will you help keep leaves out of our waterways?

Why are leaves a problem?

Like other organic materials we have covered in our pollutant challenge section over the past year, leaf litter is a contributing factor to nutrient pollution in our waterways. While rivers and streams need some nutrients to feed and promote the growth of beneficial aquatic plants, too many nutrients—called nutrient loading—from unnatural, manmade sources can cause big problems for aquatic ecosystems. Excess nutrients can cause algal blooms that in turn deplete dissolved oxygen levels and cause “dead zones” where organisms, like fish, can no longer breathe.



Keeping leaves in place creates a deeper, healthier topsoil layer.

What can I do about it?

A big source of our leaf litter, and thus nutrient pollution, comes from leaves piled in the street for fall brush pick-ups.

As a homeowner or renter, one of the biggest things you can do—keep your leaves where they are! Brush pick-up is a useful and important service in Goshen, but often leaves can be mulched in place with a mower or composted to the benefit of your yard’s soil health.

When leaves are removed, they take with them the nutrients they have sucked up from the soil. Over time this decreases soil health and leaves your trees more vulnerable to stressors like drought, infection, pest predation, damage inflicted by humans, and storms.

Healthier soil has the added benefit of reducing lawn and tree care by promoting more vigorous grass growth, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers, and holding moisture to reduce the need for irrigation!

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

