

# *A Drop of News*

## The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

November 2021

## Bringing it Together:



### *Stormwater Quality and City Operations*

Over the last three Stormwater Newsletters we highlighted the work of several different City Departments whose work has benefits for stormwater quality—Streets, Water & Sewer, and Wastewater.

Regular street sweeping reduces the amount of grit, trash, and other debris entering our storm drains, which in turn reduces the amount of material to remove from catch basins by our Water & Sewer Department. The combined work of both the Street and Water & Sewer Departments has a direct effect on waterway health where storm drains flow directly to waterways.

When a storm drain is part of our combined system that flows to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), the efforts of the Street and Water & Sewer Departments have an added bonus—helping to reduce maintenance and improve the efficiency of the collection system and plant. These functions come together at the grit separator (pictured above). Newly constructed, the separator greatly improves grit removal while using less energy. The grit separator's internal cone shape utilizes



*The new grit system has an estimated annual energy savings of 130,000 kW.*

the water's own momentum to funnel out sand, rocks, and other heavy debris before the wastewater moves through the rest of the plant.

The vector truck dump station (pictured left), another new feature at the WWTP, gives the Water & Sewer Department a place to safely dispose of material pulled from the storm and sanitary sewer systems. The facility drains water from the collected material, reducing its weight, volume, and disposal cost. Internal drains return this water to the treatment process so that it poses no risk to water quality.

Along with our work in the Stormwater Department, all of these functions fit together to ensure cleaner, healthier waterways in Goshen and for downstream communities.



*The dump station uses large, lined dumpsters to slowly drain water from the debris.*



# November Pollutant Challenge

Will you help keep FOGs out of our waterways?



*Hardened grease on a storm drain shows evidence of where dumping occurred.*

## What are FOGs?

FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease—all things that do NOT belong in storm drains or any kind of drain, including your kitchen sink.

## Why are they a problem?

Enough fats, oils, and grease will clog pipes of any size. Many of Goshen's storm drains empty directly into a waterway and FOGs can impact fish, clams, and other aquatic life. FOGs in household drains clog our wastewater system, which creates a greater risk for sanitary sewer overflows that expose dirty water to stormwater runoff and ultimately, our waterways.

## What can I do about it?

For stormwater quality, the biggest thing you can do is help spread the word on the impacts of dumping FOGs in storm drains and report incidents to the Goshen Stormwater Department (see the "Report a Pollutant" box below for more information).

Here are a few things you can do in your household to make sure FOGs do not impact our wastewater system:

1. Let FOGs harden in a sturdy, lidded disposable container and throw it in the trash to be taken to a landfill (a repurposed/recycled container is even better!).
2. Use paper towels to dry mop FOGs from used dishes before washing.
3. Use a catch basket in the sink and routinely empty food particles to the trash or compost.



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.goshenindiana.org).

Public Works & Utilities  
Department of Stormwater  
204 E. Jefferson Street  
Goshen, Indiana 46528  
574-534-2201  
[bit.ly/goshen-stormwater](http://bit.ly/goshen-stormwater)

Director of Public Works:  
Dustin Sailor

Stormwater Coordinator:  
Jason Kauffman 537-3832

Stormwater Specialist  
Mattie Lehman 537-3818

