

A Drop of News

October 2022

The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

Elkhart River Walleye Restocking



Since 2014, the Elkhart River Restoration Association (ERRA) has restocked the Elkhart River with approximately 3,000 walleye fingerlings every other year. The 6-9 inch fingerlings are delivered by Gollon Bait and Fish Farm out of Dodgeville, WI. This year's restocking was made possible in part by a large donation from Dec-O-Art of Elkhart, Indiana, who celebrated their 50th anniversary last year by donating money to various local community organizations. Dec-O-Art chose the ERRA for the work they do to protect the local waterways. Walleye are essential in our area, as they are both great for anglers, and help to keep the panfish population in check. According to Daragh Deegan, the Aquatic Biologist for the City of Elkhart, "During fish surveys on the Elkhart River, we encounter good numbers of walleye with many being above the harvestable size range of 16 inches. The quality of the population in the river appears to be comparable to superior walleye fisheries in the region. The fish appear to be eating well and growing fast which are both signs that the population is healthy. In talking to local anglers, there also appears to be a buzz around the walleye fishery and more people are actively using and interacting with the river in pursuit of the beautiful fish." This is great news to receive about the walleye population in the Elkhart River and gives us hope the fish populations will remain strong for years to come throughout the Elkhart River Watershed.



A healthy mature walleye found in the Elkhart River. (Courtesy of ERRA)



Walleye fingerling ready for release and mature Walleye (Courtesy of ERRA)



Walleye fingerlings being introduced into the Elkhart River (2022)



MCM Tour

Minimum Control Measure: Construction Site Storm Water Runoff

To meet the requirements of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Goshen's Stormwater Department works with local contractors to control construction site stormwater runoff. The reason it is so important to control construction site stormwater runoff is that it can contain pollutants, primarily sediment. Sediment can enter the waterways, making it difficult for fish to breathe. Measures taken to prevent runoff are:

- Erosion control blankets keep the soil in place while allowing the water to flow freely (photo 1)
- Concrete trucks wash out in a secure location to prevent stormwater from carrying concrete to waterways (photo 2)
- Perimeter protection, like silt fence, helps prevent sediment from leaving the construction limits (photo 3)



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.

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