A Drop of News

The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

June 2023

Vegetation and Drought

Over the past weeks, our area has received very little rain and had warm temperatures leading to many grassy areas drying out and turning brown. This is a normal response of vegetation when it is stressed, however, native plants with deeper roots are better at handling periods of little rain. The reason for this is their roots. Plants with shallow roots cannot access water when the soil dries out, but deeper-rooted plants can still reach areas of soil containing water.

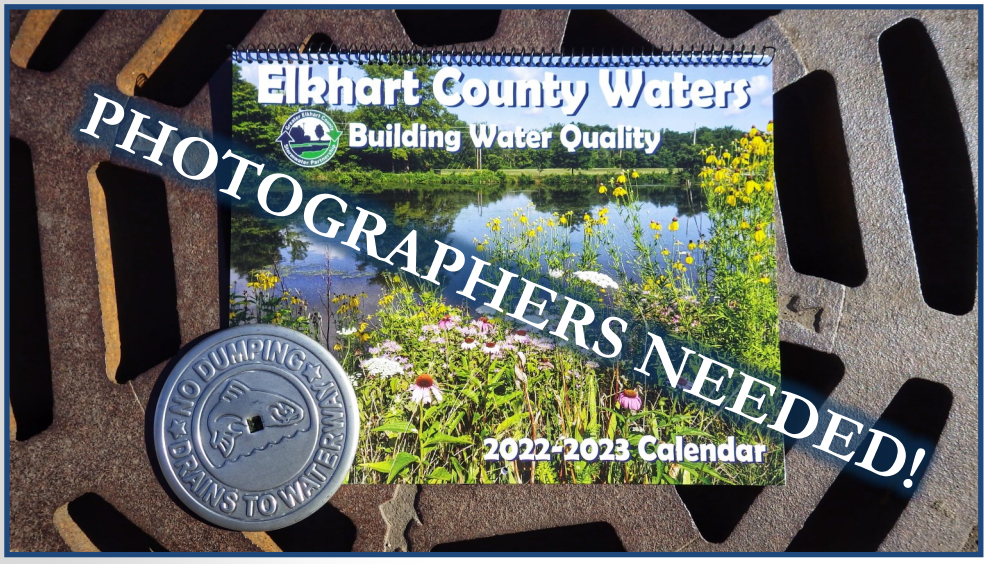
For a comparison of non-native to native plant roots visit: bit.ly/root-depth.

Native plants are species of plant that occur naturally in a region or ecosystem and are well adapted to the climate of that area. Additionally, native plants are part of a diverse and important community of plants and animals that depend upon one another.

For a comparison of how native plants compare to turfgrass visit the campus of Goshen College.

When considering what to plant in your yard, please consider native plants as they are better at surviving dry periods and their deeper roots help to hold on to the soil preventing erosion and sediment pollution. (*continued on Page 2…*)

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership is once again requesting photographs for the 2024-2025 Stormwater Calendar. The theme of the upcoming calendar is "Elkhart County Waterways" and the Partnership is soliciting photographs of the 27 waterways that flow through Elkhart County and Lake Michigan, which is where most of the water in Elkhart County flows. Most of Elkhart County is part of the Lake Michigan Watershed while a small portion of the southwest corner (near Nappanee) of the County is part of the Gulf of Mexico Watershed.



For more information on the waterways and how to upload pictures, visit the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District website or scan the QR code.

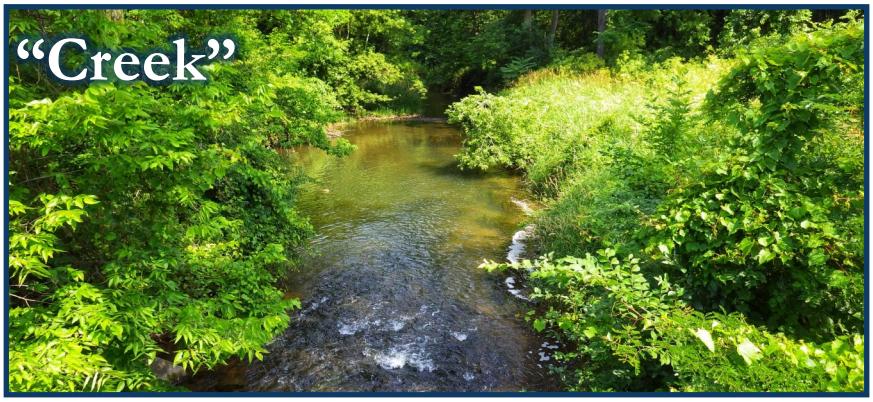
www.elkcoswcd.org

We are excited for the community to share the sights they have seen and to showcase those pictures in the 2024-2025 Stormwater Calendar.

Why are there so many words for waterways?

This month's word is "Creek" as we explore the words used to describe waterways based on size and location. Credit for this idea goes to Graham Waugh, Water Resources Engineer at CBCL Limited (www.instagram.com/waterresourcesguy), and additional etymology information from www.etymologeek.com.

"Creek — Old Norse kriki "corner, nook," perhaps influenced by Anglo-French crique, itself from a Scandinavian source via Norman. Perhaps ultimately related to crook and with an original notion of "full of bends and turns". In English, a Creek is generally smaller than a River.



Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa)

(…*continued from Page 1*) For more information check out these resources:

Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District: www.elkcoswcd.org/learn-more/native-plants/

Indiana Native Plant Society: indiananativeplants.org/native-plants/

Clear Choices Clean Water–Indiana: indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/native-plants-and-pollinators/. If you are interested in taking a pledge to protect water resources and pollinators, you can do so through this organization. It is an excellent way to show your support and to be involved.

Finally, native plants, like Butterfly Milkweed, help to reduce stormwater pollution, help stormwater to infiltrate into the soil to recharge groundwater, provide habitat for pollinators, and look beautiful at the same time.

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 Ryan Miller 533-8733

Goshen
THE MAPLE CITY