

# A Drop of News

August 2023

## The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

### Updating SOPs



To comply with the new requirements in the MS4 General Permit municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) communities must create and/or update existing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction stormwater, pollution prevention and good housekeeping compliance, and more.

The Goshen Stormwater Department is working with Wessler Engineering to comply with the requirements of the City’s MS4 General Permit. The Stormwater Department will be or already has begun reaching out to each City Department impacted by these new SOPs to inform them of this process and to ask for their assistance in the review of each SOP.

Each SOP will be used as guidance for how specific tasks are to be completed (e.g., litter pickup, roadside ditch maintenance, etc.), how permit compliance is to be achieved (e.g., IDDE investigation), and for employee training. The use of these SOPs will benefit City operations and the quality of stormwater runoff leaving City owned facilities and the overall quality of stormwater runoff throughout Goshen.



The Goshen Water & Sewer Department repairs or replaces damaged storm sewer outlet pipes.

### Pollywogging



Malacologists using a sampling technique called “pollywogging” to search the bottom of the streambed for freshwater mussels.

As another National Water Quality Month comes to a close, it is important to recognize the important role freshwater mussels play in Indiana’s aquatic ecosystems. Freshwater mussels filter large amounts of suspended materials out of the water, improving the quality of the water immensely. These mussels also help to stabilize the bottom of the waterways and as they burrow they increase nutrient and oxygen exchange between the mud and water.

Since the mid-1990s, Nongame Aquatic Biologists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDNR) have conducted surveys at over 2,000 smaller stream sites in Indiana to sample for freshwater mussels. These surveys were conducted to fill in missing information on the distribution and abundance of freshwater mussels.

Several methods can be used depending on the clarity and depth of the water. One method that is used is called

“pollywogging”, which is when a person gets down on their hands and knees and feels around in the bottom for individual mussels. Pollywogging “was likely coined because this technique might loosely resemble how a pollywog, or *(continued on page 2)*

# Why are there so many words for waterways?

This month's word is "Stream" 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](http://www.instagram.com/waterresourcesguy)), and additional etymology information from [www.etymologeek.com](http://www.etymologeek.com).



## "Stream"

Old English **stream** "a course of water, flowing water, current" from Proto-Germanic, Old Norse, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, German **Strom** "current, river"

In English, a generic term for flowing water or a small watercourse.



Freshwater mussels collected during a stream survey are counted & returned to the waterbody once the survey is complete.

(continued from Page 1) tadpole, might move in water." Other methods include diving, snorkeling, visually searching (sometimes with a bucket with a clear bottom), or toe-picking.

The INDNR has found that nearly 80 species of freshwater mussels have lived or are living within Indiana's waterways, and 27 of these species are listed as 'endangered' or of 'special concern'. Due to the important role freshwater mussels provide for water quality, it is important to protect their habitat in Indiana's waterways.

To learn more visit: [bit.ly/INFreshwatermussels](https://bit.ly/INFreshwatermussels).

Information and pictures for this article came from the Indiana DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund E-News from August 24, 2023. To sign-up for the E-Newsletter visit: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDEFISHWILD/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USINDEFISHWILD\\_8](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDEFISHWILD/subscriber/new?topic_id=USINDEFISHWILD_8).

## 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).

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