

A Drop of News

The Maple City Stormwater Toolbox

November 2023



National Stormwater Day—November 16

The National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) declared November 16th as National Stormwater Day because “[on] November 16, 1990, the Federal Register included notice of the promulgation of the [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)] Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program making this a major day in the stormwater sector. Since this time, thousands of communities, along with qualifying institutions and other entities, have developed MS4 programs and implemented millions of stormwater control measures collectively to address urban runoff pollution. Over these 33 years, the approach to addressing stormwater has evolved as have the programs established to manage urban runoff.”

nationalstormwateralliance.org

The City of Goshen’s Stormwater Management program operates under the NPDES Phase II MS4 program, which

was included in the Federal Register on December 8, 1999. As stormwater continues to be the only growing source of water pollution in our country’s waters, it continues to be important to use different and improved practices to keep pollutants out of stormwater runoff.

There are 7,550 MS4 communities throughout the United States, amounting to an estimated 3.5 million miles of storm sewers, 270 million storm drains, and 2.5 million stormwater treatment assets (data from the American Society of Civil Engineers 2021 Infrastructure Report Card for Stormwater).

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/stormwater-infrastructure/>

“Water is the most critical issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.” — Luna Leopold, first Chief Hydrologist of the USGS

Why are there so many words for waterways?



“Petrichor”

Over the past seven months we have explored the words used to describe waterways based on size and location and as we draw this series to a close we focus on one last word:

“Petrichor” — The pleasant, earthy smell that accompanies the first rain after a long warm, dry spell. “A blend of the Greek words *petra*, rock, and *ikhor*, the ethereal fluid that flowed as blood in the veins of the gods.” - Cynthia Barnett—*Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*

May the sweet smell of the rain always bring you peace.

Holiday F.O.G. Warning



A clogged pipe caused by the dumping of F.O.G. down the drain. Photo Credit: City of Elkhart

What is F.O.G. you ask? Well, it stands for fats, oils, and grease, and when dumped down a drain (kitchen or storm) or flushed down the toilet, it can cause major problems in the sewers, especially when it mixes with other items flushed down the toilet like wipes, diapers, feminine products, etc., and it can impact local waterways if a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) occurs.

Defend your drains during the Holidays and all year long by only flushing water and the three P's (pee, poop, and toilet paper) down the toilet and allowing only water and soap to flow down the kitchen drain. Help the City of Goshen prevent sanitary

sewer backups and overflows and protect local water quality by following these tips:

- ❖ **Don't pour leftover cooking grease or oil down the drain.**
- ❖ If you can't reuse your used cooking oil, pour it into a sturdy closed-lid container and dispose of it in the trash.
- ❖ Cover the drain in the kitchen sink with a catch basket and empty the food particles into the trashcan as needed. **Don't use a garbage disposal.**
- ❖ Scrape plates over a trashcan or dry wipe with paper towels.
- ❖ Use damp paper towels with a bit of soap to remove grease and oil residue and then wipe with a dry paper towel.
- ❖ **For more information on what not to flush or pour down a toilet or drain visit: bit.ly/DontFlushOrPour.**

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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bit.ly/goshen-stormwater

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