

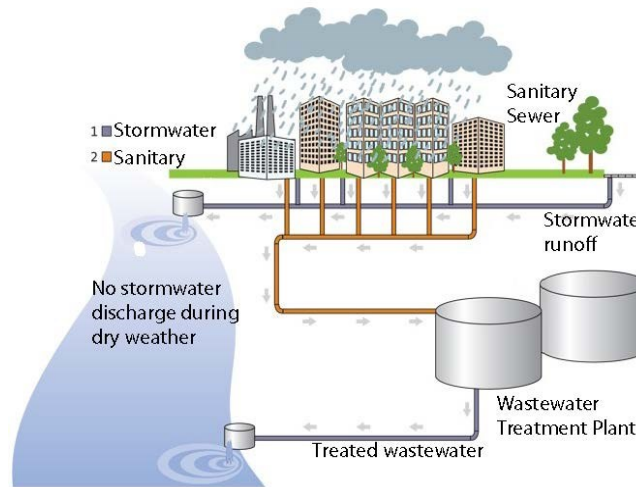
What is Stormwater & How it Affects You

Stormwater is simply water that falls onto the ground from rain or snow events. The water that does not soak into the ground is called stormwater runoff. As stormwater runs off lawns, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and roads, it can flow into our wetlands, streams, lakes, and the rivers and carry pollutants it picks up along the way. The pollutants include oil, grease, gasoline, lead and cadmium from the roads; pesticides, herbicides and animal waste from residential areas & farmlands; and dirt from construction sites, to name a few. Added to this list are items improperly disposed of into storm drains or on the ground.

All these contaminants end up in waterways, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and can impact shellfish beds, fish and animal habitat, recreational swimming, and even our drinking water.

Illegal dumping and putting anything down a storm drain is another cause of water pollution. To lessen pollution, we all need to do our part and change our habits. Your efforts along with your neighbors can make a difference.

Stormwater vs. Sanitary Wastewater



Find out more about stormwater management and ways you can help at:
www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities

To report a stormwater drainage issue or to report illegal dumping call
311 or (260) 427-8311



Be A Storm Drain Steward

A Reference Guide for Fort Wayne Residents



What Storm Drains Are

Storm drains are metal openings constructed in streets and roadways that help to prevent flooding by allowing rain water and melting snow to drain away. Storm drains are usually found along the curb line, many times at an intersection. Curbs and gutters help to direct water from the street into the storm drain.



As storm drains collect water from the street, they also take anything that the stormwater carries with it. Most water that goes into a storm

drain gets no treatment before it is discharged into a water body (a pond, ditch, stream, or river). That means that anything that goes into the storm drain can pollute the environment. Some of the common pollutants found in stormwater include: lawn chemicals such as fertilizer and pesticides, bacteria from pet waste, household chemicals, soaps used for washing cars, dirt, soil and sediment. Even products that are labeled as biodegradable or non-toxic can cause damage to waterways and can harm aquatic life.



Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

Storm drains are not intended to be the neighborhood trash can. Nothing should be dumped down a storm drain. Chemicals, paint or other pollutants can go directly into a stream or water body. Trash, even leaves and grass clippings, can cause the storm drain to become clogged, result-

Mark Storm Drains

Call 311 or (260) 427-8311 to volunteer to mark storm drains in your neighborhood. City Utilities provides all of the markers, equipment, and safety supplies you need.

The Process:

1. Clean the spot where the marker will be using a wire brush.
2. Apply adhesive to the back of the marker.
3. Place the marker and press down.
4. Wipe up any excess adhesive that may have oozed out from under the marker.
5. Move to the next location.



What YOU Can Do

You can help prevent water pollution and reduce street flooding by being a storm drain steward.

- Do not dump anything into a storm drain.
- Don't litter, pick up your trash.
- Mulch grass clippings instead of bagging.
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street. If your street is flooding, check to see if the storm drain is blocked by yard waste and clean it off, if possible.
- Blow or sweep grass clippings and fertilizer back onto your lawn when they are in the driveway, sidewalk, or street.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly.
- Recycle used oil, do not dump in a drain.
- Consider using a commercial car wash rather than washing your car in the driveway or street.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly. Contact the Allen County Department of Environmental Management on where and when to take household hazardous waste.
www.acwastewater.org
- Check City Utilities website for more ways to volunteer at www.cityoffortwayne.org/ways-you-can-help.html