

Green Ways to Manage Stormwater

Plant a rain garden — a landscaped area planted with wild flowers and other native plants that helps rainwater coming from a house or building soak into the ground. Learn about Fort Wayne's rain garden program at www.CatchingRainFW.org.

Disconnect or redirect downspouts — downspouts that appear to go into the ground may be discharging rain water to a sewer that is not intended to receive it. By disconnecting downspouts you may be able to reduce basement flooding or back-ups in your own or your neighbors' homes.

Harvest rainwater—using a rain barrel or cistern to collect rain water may reduce standing water in your yard or in the street. The internet offers a variety of resources and ideas.

Protect water quality—all rain water runoff makes its way to a water body such as a river, lake, pond or stream without going through a treatment process. You can help improve water quality by taking very simple actions:

- Put litter in its place—a trash can
- Recycle
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste
- Reduce the chemicals you put on your lawn. It will save you money
- Never dump anything down a storm drain!

Fort Wayne's Stormwater Utility

Management of stormwater runoff is critical to keeping rivers clean, protecting publicly owned infrastructure and protecting public health and safety. Fort Wayne's stormwater utility provides essential stormwater management services.

Created by City ordinance in 1991, the stormwater utility now serves a 92 square mile area with nearly 665 miles of storm sewers and other infrastructure.

The stormwater utility maintains the public portion of the storm sewer system and makes improvements to protect against flooding. It also determines when and how storm sewers, ditches, channels and other stormwater facilities are designed, installed, adjusted, used, altered or otherwise changed.

The work of the stormwater utility is funded by a utility user fee. Residential properties pay a flat rate of \$4.40 per month (rate as of July 1, 2017). Non-residential properties are billed according to the amount of impervious surface — such as rooftops, parking lots and driveways — on their property.

Find out more about stormwater management at:

www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities

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

Stormwater Drainage Responsibilities

A Reference Guide for Fort Wayne Property Owners



City Utilities' Responsibilities

- Maintain a stormwater master plan that identifies and prioritizes improvements to drainage systems within the City of Fort Wayne
- Receive and investigate stormwater drainage concerns from residents
- Design and construct flood control and stormwater drainage improvement projects
- Maintain stormwater drainage facilities in the public right-of-way or easements to protect public infrastructure
- Review plans and issue permits for development and land altering activities and inspect construction sites to ensure compliance with stormwater management and erosion control requirements
- Implement activities to improve water quality in area water bodies as required by Indiana's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program



Property Owners' Responsibilities

- Keep easements clear of blockages. Not sure if an easement exists on your property? Contact City Utilities to learn more
- Keep ditches and drainage channels within your neighborhood and around your property clear of brush, debris, trash and other blockages
- Maintain swales and ditches, including roadside ditches in front of your property, by keeping grass mowed and removing trash and debris
- Keep driveway culverts in good repair and free of leaves or other blockages



- Clear leaves and trash away from stormwater inlet grates to reduce street flooding
- If your neighborhood has a stormwater detention pond, it is the neighborhood's responsibility to maintain it so that it works as designed
- Do not change drainage patterns on private property in ways that adversely affect public right-of-way or neighboring property

It's the Law

Fort Wayne's stormwater utility is governed by the Board of Stormwater Management. Its authority and responsibilities are described in the Fort Wayne Code of Ordinances - Chapter 53, the *Stormwater Utility Rules and Regulations* and the *City Utilities' Design Standards Manual*.

The stormwater utility has no authority to correct storm drainage problems on private property. If the drainage issue occurring on private property is not the result of a failure of Fort Wayne's public drainage infrastructure, the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem.

Working together to keep the stormwater drainage system in good condition, the stormwater utility and residents can:

- Reduce potholes and maintain the condition of public streets
- Reduce traffic hazards by removing standing water that can freeze in winter
- Remove insect breeding grounds
- Reduce basement backups and yard flooding

