

Merrillville Stormwater Utility and Merrillville Public Works are announcing a ribbon-cutting ceremony for one of the major projects scheduled this year – the 54<sup>th</sup> Court Reconstruction Project – on Friday, May 25, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Court Reconstruction Project is taking place to reconstruct the road and courtyard area that affects residents in the cul de sac area near Maryland and Carolina Streets and 54<sup>th</sup> Court. (A map is enclosed for your convenience; enter from Broadway at 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and then use either Maryland or Carolina Street to get to 54<sup>th</sup> Court.) The road is being reconstructed of concrete to make it more sustainable, and the middle grassy area will become a rain garden, which will collect and treat water runoff in the area.

Construction is expected to begin on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Olthoff, Inc. is the contractor who was awarded the bid earlier this month.

The Town of Merrillville supports low impact development (LID), which is an approach to environmentally friendly land use development. It includes a suite of landscaping and design techniques that attempt to maintain the natural, pre-developed ability of a site to manage rainfall. LID techniques capture water on site, filter it through vegetation and let it soak into the ground. The rain garden will increase the value of homes of local property owners and will preserve the natural site features of trees and native plants that will be included in the rain garden.

Ward 2 Councilman Richard Hardaway, Stormwater Utility staff and Public Works staff will be present for the ribbon-cutting. Residents of the affected area and the public are invited to attend. For further information, contact Matt Lake, Stormwater Utility Executive Director, at 769-6784, or Town Engineer Jon Derwinski at Robinson Engineering at 791-0700.