



Stormwater Enforcement

By: Matt Lake, Executive Director



There are many aspects to stormwater management, including enforcing local ordinances to protect the quality of our waterways. This includes regulating any non-stormwater discharges that has the potential to degrade our receiving waters. Other concerns with “illicit discharges” are things that impede the flow of water. Illegal dumping within waterways including yard waste, trash and soil, can alter and block drainage and may cause flooding. To help deter dumping, we have developed new signage that you will see at various locations in town. Informants who provide evidence leading to a conviction will be rewarded.



Additionally, there are ways residents can help prevent blockages:

- Remove leaves, grass and debris from streets, storm drains, culverts and ditches.
- Blow grass clippings away from street while mowing.
- Keep trash in receptacles and pick up any debris in your front and back yard areas near drains.
- Report and provide evidence (photo/video) of illegal dumping to the Stormwater office (472-8668).
- Do not add any fill to roadside ditches and swales.
- Do not block grassed swales in your backyard with fill, landscaping, sheds or fencing.
- Do not stockpile snow over storm drain inlets.



Coming soon to our webpage will be our Stormwater Master Plan. This plan identifies and prioritizes large flood control and water quality capital improvement projects throughout the town. The document includes nine drainage studies from hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. The goals of the document include:

- Reduce existing flood/drainage problems.
- Prevent an increase in existing flood/drainage problems as growth occurs.
- Prevent or minimize flooding on public roadways.
- Help preserve the natural and beneficial function of the drainage system.
- Enhance stormwater quality.

Visit us at our webpage at:

http://merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management/index.php

