



Stormwater Protection



By: Matthew Lake, M.S. CMS4S - Executive Director

Merrillville is one of only three Northwest Indiana communities that are now ranked in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program. This National Flood Insurance Program recognizes communities that have proven to implement floodplain management activities that exceed NFIP standards. Merrillville ranked the highest in the state (Class 7) as a part of this program which automatically lowers flood insurance premiums for our residents. See www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system. In recent years, we have experienced more intense and frequent storm events, and last year was one of our wettest seasons on record. As the town implements more projects to prepare for changes in our weather patterns, residents can consider these **tips to help protect their homes from water damage:**

- **Ensure downspouts are extended adequately away from your foundation**
- **Clean gutters and make sure they are in good condition**
- **Properly grade area around foundation to ensure rain water drains away from the house**
- **Test sump pump to ensure it is functioning properly (add battery backup if possible)**
- **Ensure outlet for sump pump is clear and not flooding neighboring property or public street**
- **Install backflow preventers “check valves” for all outflow pipes (contact plumber for details)**
- **Look at flood insurance options for additional protection (talk to your insurance agent)**



This past year, your Stormwater Utility won the following awards!

- Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence
- INAFSM’s Outstanding Stormwater Project of the Year
- Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce Landscaping & Architectural Excellence in Design Award

Recycled 55 gallon rain barrels will be available for \$56.50 each in four colors (blue, grey, black and terra cotta) from March 16th through April 24th. The pickup date for all rain barrels ordered will be on Thursday, April 30th from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM at the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center at 7404 Broadway. You can order online at www.upcycle-products.com or by mail using an order form available at town hall and our department’s webpage: www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management

