



Stormwater Spring Tips

By: Matt Lake, Executive Director



The Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center was completed this past December and our staff and equipment are here to assist you at 7404 Broadway. Some of the services we provide include, but are not limited to: Flood Control Projects, Plan Review/Permitting, Technical Assistance, Infrastructure Maintenance & Replacement, GIS/Mapping, FEMA/Floodplain Management, Ordinance Enforcement, Establish & Update Design Standards, Public Outreach and Compliance with IDEM Stormwater Regulations.

After a long winter, we want to remind residents about the importance of reducing pollution in stormwater runoff.

Here are some tips that you can do at your property:

- *Never dump anything down storm drains or in ditches/creeks.*
- *Direct downspout & sump pump drains into grassed areas (don't flood your neighbor).*
- *Keep leaves, grass and debris out of the streets, storm drains & ditches.*
- *Don't over fertilize your lawn.*
- *Install rain barrels to harvest rain water, plant a rain garden and trees.*
- *Pick up after your pet and don't feed Canadian geese.*
- *Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.*
- *Don't use coal tar based sealants on driveways.*

Did You Know...

- *Polluted runoff is the nation's largest greatest threat to clean water.*
- *Lake Michigan is the 6th largest freshwater lake in the world.*
- *Everyone lives in a watershed (our water drains to Lake Michigan).*
- *1" of rain per acre = 27,154 gallons.*
- *1" of rain in Merrillville = over 578 million gallons of stormwater.*
- *1 gallon of oil can contaminate up to 1 million gallons of water.*
- *Storm inlets drain to open waterways, not sanitary wastewater treatment plants.*
- *The water you drink is affected by stormwater runoff.*

