

Keep our Waterways Clean!



The City of Frankfort is implementing a Storm Water Program as a requirement of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Storm Water Phase II Program. The City has been issued an NPDES permit by the state for this program. The ultimate goal of the Storm Water Program is to prevent pollution in our lakes, streams, waterways, and groundwater.

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a storm system, lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals that are deposited on impervious surfaces are transported with storm water runoff into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution.

Storm water in Frankfort flows to Prairie Creek and Wildcat Creek. Because storm sewers are connected directly to these waterways, it is important that only clean water is entering the storm sewer system.

Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation. Protecting our water bodies from all sources of contamination can be accomplished through the cooperation of citizens, government, and businesses.

Following is a list on how to keep our waterways clean:

- Clean up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash container or toilet. When left outdoors, pet waste contributes to bacteria and nutrients in storm water.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car in the grass, which allows for infiltration, to reduce the amount of dirty, soapy water entering storm drains and waterways.
- Piles of soil and mulch to be used for landscaping projects should be covered to prevent erosion.
- If you have a septic system, have it serviced regularly. Make sure it is not connected to storm drains or polluting a creek or body of water
- Clean up your property. Properly dispose of outdated or unused household chemicals stored in your basement, garage, or barn and do not store these materials outdoors.
- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in storm drains, alleys, or the ground. This pollutes the water supply.
- Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.

Storm Water Hotline Now In Effect!



To report the illegal dumping of chemicals, heavy erosion from construction sites, heavily polluted water, or other illegal connections to the storm system (such as septic tank discharges or washing machine wash water), please call the City of Frankfort Storm Water Hotline. The Sewer Department Office will accept storm water hotline calls at phone number 765-654-8343 between the hours of 7am and 4pm, Monday through Friday. Callers are required to give their name and contact information so that storm water problems can be tracked as they are resolved. Emergencies such as chemical spills should still be reported to 911.

Prohibited Discharges in Storm Water



In 2004, the City adopted a Storm Water Management Ordinance. Section 7 of this ordinance describes prohibited discharges to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

The storm sewer system includes:

- Streets and curbs and gutters
- Ditches, streams, waterways, and ponds
- Storm drains, storm pipes, and culvert pipes

When anything is discharged to the ground or directly to a portion of the storm sewer system, it could clog the system or ultimately travel to a creek or county ditch. This ordinance specifically prohibits “any substance other than storm water” that is directly discharged or could travel to the storm sewer system.

Prohibited discharges:

- Illegal dumping of chemicals, oil, trash or other debris is prohibited
- Illegal connections to the storm sewer system are prohibited (washing machines, septic systems, commercial car washes, and any substance that is not clean storm water)
- Natural debris such as grass clippings, leaves or soils must not be placed in the streets, along curb lines, in a ditch, or directly into any part of the storm sewer system. Grass clippings should be swept or blown back into the yard.

Allowable discharges:

- Clean water from sump pumps, air conditioning condensate or lawn watering is allowed.
- Water from swimming pools, is permitted. Before discharging swimming pool water, it must be dechlorinated, because chlorine is toxic to aquatic life. Pool water can easily be dechlorinated by letting the water sit, without adding pool chemicals, for seven days.

To view a copy of the ordinance, visit Frankfort’s Storm Water Webpage. The City would prefer to assist and educate landowners who are attempting to comply with the ordinance. However, the ordinance allows for strict enforcement actions. The City will also be conducting inspections to locate pollution sources and prohibited discharges and will issue Notices of Violation when necessary. If the problem is not addressed by the landowner, penalties can include fines, injunctions, or compensatory actions.

