

# Events and Notices

## REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Please protect our waters. Report anyone dumping chemicals, trash, or anything but clean water into a storm drain or directly into our rivers.

Report a Polluter  
Highland Public Works  
(219) 972-5083

## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

### Stargazing

Enjoy the beauty of the night sky through telescopes from the darkest site in the park. Call ahead to confirm time of program at 219-395-1882.

**Date:** Saturday, February 10  
(and the 2nd Saturday of every month in 2018)

**Times:** 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Fees:** Free

**Location:** Kemil Beach Parking Lot

### Science Saturday, Sugar Maple Research

Learn about the Lakeshore's involvement with national maple tree research study that is looking at how climate change alters the sap output of sugar maple trees.

**Date:** Saturday, February 24

**Time:** 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Fees:** Free **Location:** Indiana Dunes National Beach Lakeshore Visitor's Center, 1215 North State Road 49 Porter, IN 46304



# TOWN OF HIGHLAND

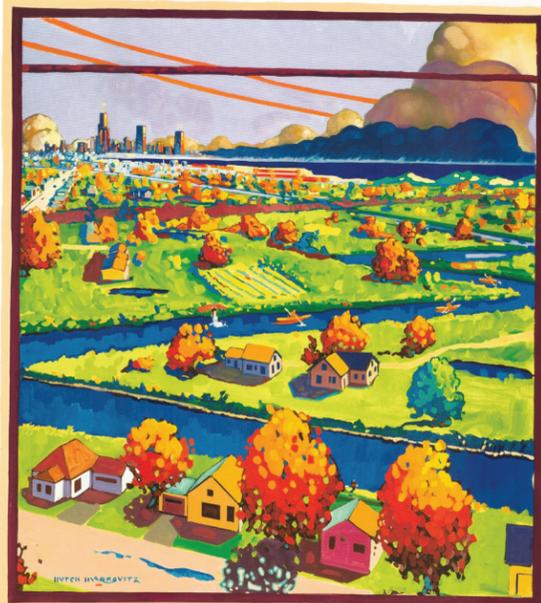
WINTER EDITION

## QUARTERLY



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

In 2017, the Town of Merrillville commissioned a South Shore Poster with sponsorship from the Northern Indiana Stormwater Advisory. The finished artwork by artist Mitch Markovitz, titled "Clean and Clear" depicts a waterway meandering through an urban area and flowing to Lake Michigan, much in the same way that stormwater touches our cities, businesses, and homes and then flows to Lake Michigan.



**Clean and Clear**  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
in NORTHWEST INDIANA...  
Just around the Corner  
along the SOUTH SHORE LINE

The Stormwater Management poster is the latest in the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority "Along the South Shore Line" series.

The posters are available for sale along with other vintage, contemporary, or regional South Shore Posters at the Indiana Welcome Center W.F. Wellman Exhibit Hall gift shop. The visitors bureau is located off of I-80/94 on Kennedy Ave. South 7770 Corinne Dr., Hammond, Indiana. 24" X 36" posters are available for sale for \$35, and smaller 12" X 18" posters are \$25.

## SOUTH SHORE POSTERS

The South Shore Line is the name of the commuter train running from South Bend, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois. Between 1925 to 1929 ridership doubled in large part due to a successful marketing campaign that advertised stories of events and destinations along the South Shore Line.

The South Shore Line emphasized the speed of the train and the many special events and attractions that were easy destinations through travel on the train. The creation of colorful South Shore Line posters became an important and iconic part of that marketing campaign. Today that campaign continues with the creation of "Clean and Clear", Stormwater Management in Northwest Indiana poster.



To purchase a contemporary, regional, or vintage South Shore poster, visit southshoreposters.com or stop by the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond.

## IT'S WINTER IN NORTHERN INDIANA

*Freeze thaw, freeze thaw over and over. That is a typical winter in Northern Indiana. It makes for a great place to witness stormwater pollutants in action. When the thaw comes, all the dirt, grease, and trash that have been building up under that snow become evident. If it ends up in a storm drain, it will go right to the river. Take a minute and look inside to see 9 tips for cleaner water.*



## SMART SNOW MANAGEMENT

**Prevent packed snow and ice from forming by** shoveling snow to remove it from paved surfaces. Prompt shoveling will reduce or eliminate the need for snow melt and deicing products. Be sure to pile shoveled snow in the grass or downslope of walking areas to prevent melt water from refreezing on walking surfaces.

Limit the use of deicing chemicals and products on sidewalks and driveways as they can readily flow into storm drains and streams when ice melts. When deicing products that contain salt and other chemicals, dissolve, they seep into groundwater and flow into streams where they can impair water quality, damage plants, and harm aquatic life.

Use environmentally-friendly alternatives, such as sand or clay kitty litter to avoid the need for products that can have damaging impacts and be harmful to the environment.

## TAKE A LOOK INSIDE



**2 Stormwater Runoff**  
Where does it all go?



**3 Clean Water Starts with You! 9 Tips for Cleaner Water**



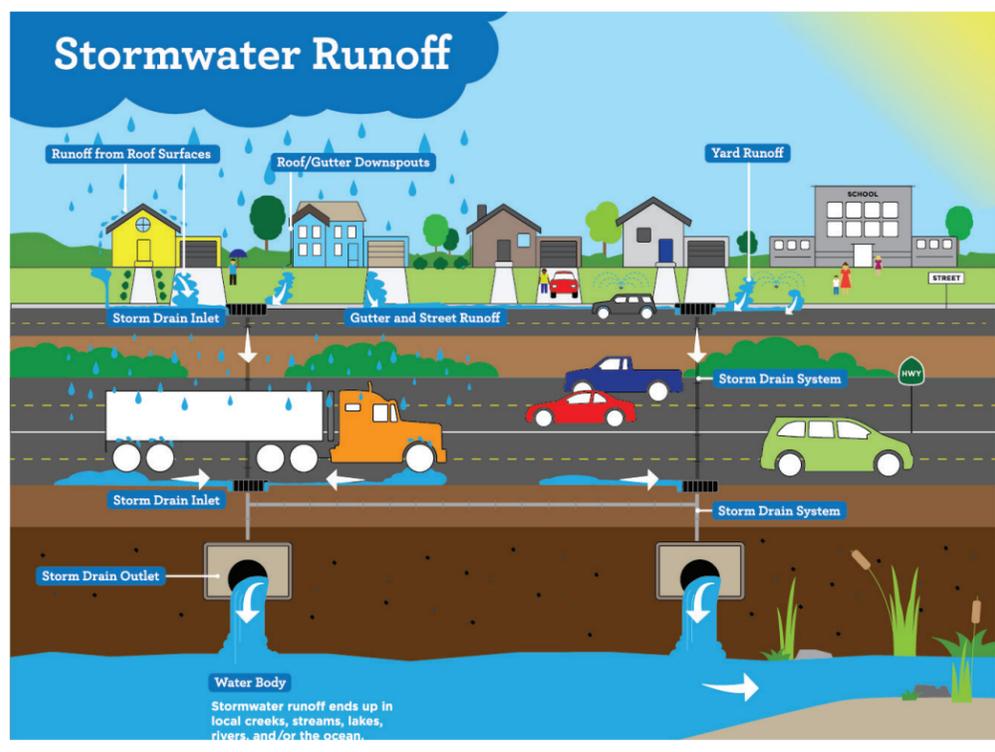
**3 Rain Gardens**  
Tips to make a project successful.

## NEXT ISSUE:

### Local Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste

Coming in the Spring Issue find out what is happening at our local solid waste district. Recycling is a global business that is changing and may impact the way we use and dispose of materials.

# STORMWATER HIGHWAY



## EVERYDAY CHOICES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

What is on the pavement, in the parking lot, in the driveway, or on the property determines what goes into the river.

Stormwater runoff that pollutes water is simply rainwater that flows off of a property and into a storm drain in the street or directly into the river. When stormwater comes in contact with oils, fertilizer, poop, soil or other pollutants, it washes those pollutants away with it and into lakes and rivers.

Protecting water quality isn't hard. It is about many simple steps that keep the stormwater pathways clean.

## CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU!

### SCOOP THE POOP

Poop pollutes drinking and recreational waters. Pick up and dispose of pet poop.

### DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS PROPERLY

Dispose of chemicals only at the local Household hazardous waste drop off.



### FIX AUTOMOTIVE LEAKS

Automotive fluids are toxic. Keep fluids from washing into storm drains.

### COMPOST YOUR WASTE

When yard waste enters storm drains and local waters, its nutrients feed algae and result in dead zones in the lake.

### PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Sediment is the number one pollutant of water in the United States. Sediment clogs fish gills and can suffocate fish. Protect against erosion by planting deep rooted native plants.

### USE LESS FERTILIZER

Fertilizer is made to be an easy meal for plants, but nitrogen in fertilizer can make water unsafe if it leeches into your water supply.

### USE TREES AND SHRUBS TO FILTER RUNOFF

Trees and shrubs soak up water and stabilize soil.

### MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Get your septic system serviced at least every 2 years.

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



## PLANNING AHEAD FOR SPRING? RAIN GARDENS REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTANTS AND INVITE WILDLIFE.

Rain gardens are depressed areas that are landscaped with perennial flowers and native plants that soak up rainwater. They are located to capture stormwater runoff from roofs, streets, and other hard surfaces. When it rains, rain gardens are designed to fill with a few inches of water and allow that water to soak into the ground instead of flowing into a storm drain. Rain gardens reduce the amount of water and pollutants flowing into the storm drain and also rivers and lakes. Always call 811 before you dig!



### Tips

Always use native plants.

- Place the garden a minimum of 10 feet from buildings
- Limit the number of species to 5 or 6 and plant in clusters.
- Choose a variety of bloom times and colors.
- Add a native grass to provide volume and habitat.
- Plant with the insects in mind.
- Small plants, "plugs", are easier to establish than seeds.
- Water once a week during the first 2-3 summers.
- Be patient. Plan on it taking 2 to 3 years to establish.

### NEED HELP FINDING NATIVES?

First start by checking your local nursery. If you have questions about native plants, you can contact the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS). INPAWS is a non-profit resource that specializes providing information about native plants. ([www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org)) The organization is also a good resources in assisting with plant selection.

### Want more information?

For more information on rain gardens, go to [www.MyCommunityMyWater.com](http://www.MyCommunityMyWater.com)

## KIDS CORNER

## Eliminating Trash From Our Streams

Help Droplet clean this stream.

What doesn't belong? Can you find all of the hidden trash pictured here? → Circle or color the trash.

