



# Stormwater Matters

## City of New Albany

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

### Program Statistic Estimates

2007

Maintenance projects completed	376
Catch basins cleaned	762
Material collected from catch basins & drains (tons)	122
Material dredged from ditches (tons)	80
Estimated linear feet of ditch/pipe cleaned or repaired	16,389
Material collected from street sweeping (tons)	657
Yard Waste Collected (tons)	398
Construction sites permitted	14
Illicit discharges eliminated	23
Capital projects	\$310,680
Flood insurance policies (as of December 1st, 2007)	160

**Board Meetings will be held the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the City-County Building, 3rd Floor Assembly Room, 311 West 1st Street, New Albany.**

## Preparing for Spring Rains

Did you know that leaves and debris can cause problems for the New Albany stormwater system?

It is that time of year again to go outside, enjoy the nice weather and work in our yards. Did you know that what we do in our yards can impact water quality? Did you know that what goes down our storm drains goes directly into our streams? The grass that we cut, the leaves that we rake, pet waste and the chemicals that we use in our yards when disposed or used improperly all impact the quality of our streams, lakes and rivers.

Some may think that since leaves and lawn clippings are natural that they will not harm our environment. However, that is not the case. Often too much of a good thing can disrupt the

natural balance of our environment. Leaves and yard clippings washed down storm drains can:

- harm aquatic life by clogging the gills of fish and blocking sunlight,
- raise water temperatures,
- load our streams with excess nutrients, and
- disrupt the delicate balance of nature.



New Albany Stream

Yard clippings and leaves can also clog our storm drains and streams reducing capacity, causing flooding in our neighborhoods. Pet waste and fertilizers cause excess algal growth in streams, choking out wildlife and disrupting natural stream processes.

In order to prevent these problems:

- Do not rake or blow leaves and yard clippings into streets.
- Place yard debris in appropriately marked cans or bags for pick-up.
- Make sure that storm drains near your yard are clear.

This will assist with drainage during rain events, reduce flooding and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

## Spring Cleaning and Illegal Dumping

The New Albany Common Council adopted an ordinance last year prohibiting non-stormwater discharges to the drainage system. This ordinance prohibits the disposal of any substance other than stormwater runoff into the drainage system and includes stiff penalties for illegal dumping. Strict enforcement of this ordinance began in September 2007, and can result in fines of up to \$2,500 per day per violation against those who improperly dispose of wastes.

The enforcement of this ordinance is to further protect New Albany's streams. Both State and Federal laws mandate

that the City of New Albany have an ordinance in place that prohibits discharges of non-stormwater.

Generally speaking, wastes disposed of in storm drains, yards and waterways that are not composed entirely of stormwater are prohibited. This includes the disposal of common household hazardous wastes such as paints, oils, batteries and pesticides. Even household wastes improperly disposed of in the sink are often not adequately treated, whether they go to a septic system or a wastewater treatment plant.

The Floyd County Solid Waste Management District now has a

year-round collection center household waste facility to dispose of household wastes at 37 West 8th Street. The facility is open every Friday by appointment, 948-4733. For more information, please visit the New Albany Stormwater Website and click on "Get Involved".



Floyd County Household Hazardous Waste Facility



New Albany  
Stormwater  
38 West 10th St.  
New Albany, IN 47150

Stormwater Utility.: 812-945-1989  
Stormwater Billing Dept.: 812-948-5399  
E-mail: info@newalbanystormwater.org

## Did You Know?

### Know Your System

There are 2,417 catch basins in the City of New Albany with 2,869 pipes, for an approximate total of 231,094 feet. A catch basin is an inlet to the storm drain system that typically includes a grate where rain or melting snow enters the catch basin with a sump to capture sediment, debris and associated pollutants. There are also 669 channels totaling approximately 318,249 feet.



### What is "stormwater runoff"?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or melting snow flows over the ground and impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, streets and rooftops preventing the stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. In a growing city like New Albany, problems arise when impervious areas not only prevent the water from being absorbed, but also cause stormwater to run off at a much faster rate. Stormwater can accumulate, causing localized nuisance flooding and possible threats to public health and safety. To help manage this, the storm drainage system carries stormwater away from homes and businesses.

Flooding is only part of the problem. As rain runs over our streets and yards, it washes pollutants such as gasoline, oil, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers into our storm drainage system. This polluted runoff travels through the storm drainage system via channels and pipes, and ends up, untreated, in our creeks and waterways. With the passage of time, these pollutants build up, damaging our streams, rivers, and lakes.

## Learn More About Your Stormwater

To obtain more information about the New Albany stormwater program, visit the New Albany stormwater website. Since the website was made publicly available in October 2006, it has been visited approximately **14,742** times. It is good source to obtain additional stormwater educational materials, updates on the New Albany Stormwater Board, and to test stormwater knowledge by completing a survey.