

## 10 Things you can do to help

As a resident of New Albany, there are 10 simple things you can do to help improve the quality of stormwater that enters our nearby streams, creeks, lakes and rivers.

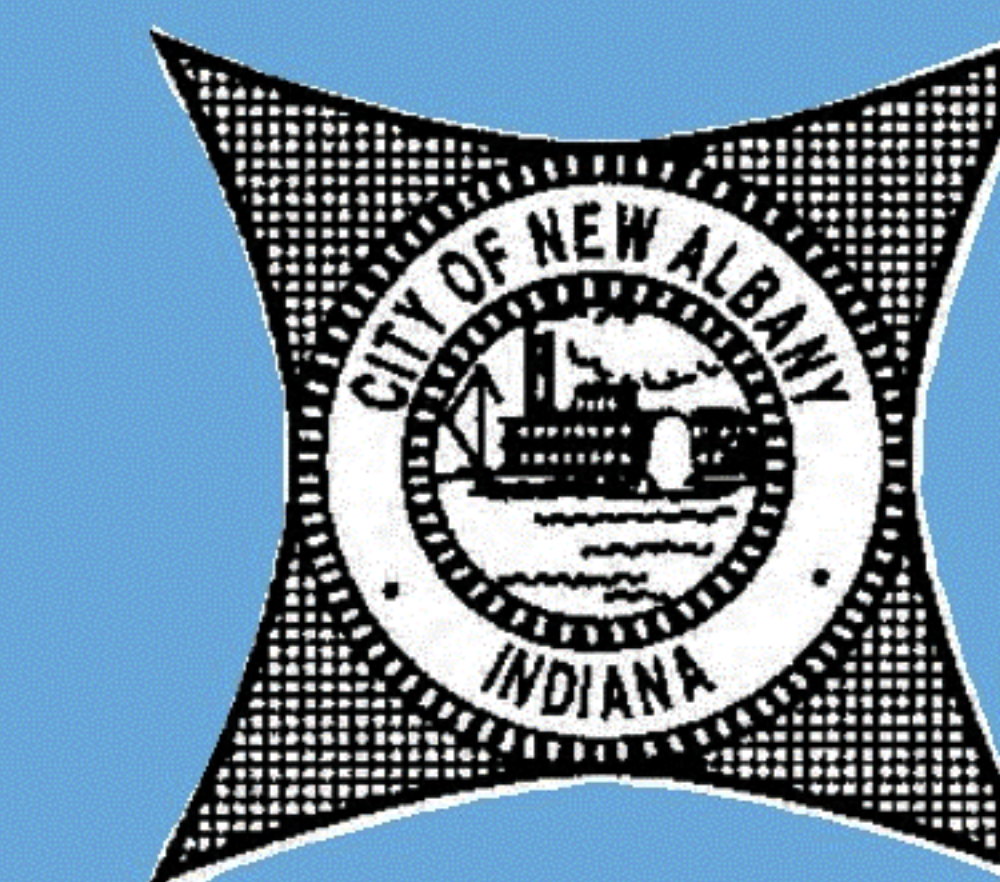
1. Cover or seed all bare soil and preserve stream-side vegetation; sediment is Indiana's largest water pollutant by volume.
2. Do not dump anything into storm drains and report anyone who dumps chemicals into storm drains by calling Stormwater Management at 812-945-1989 or the Police Department. Stormwater that enters these drains generally goes untreated and flows into local streams and waterways.
3. Participate in community clean-ups and storm drain labeling events, especially around local waterways.
4. Avoid overuse of fertilizer and pesticides. Test your soils to determine the amount needed and apply only when necessary.
5. Compost yard waste, sweep up grass clippings and tree trimmings from pavement and do not dump yard waste along stream banks, over hill sides or into the street.
6. Clean up pet waste from your yard - it can carry harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses into New Albany's waters.
7. Store oil, gasoline, antifreeze and other automotive supplies properly. Keep containers tightly sealed.
8. Take old paint, pesticides, automotive fluids, and batteries to a hazardous waste handling facility. Call the Floyd County Solid Waste District at (812) 948-4733 for more details.
9. Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or on a grassy surface to avoid draining into the stormwater drainage system.
10. Pick up litter whenever you see it.

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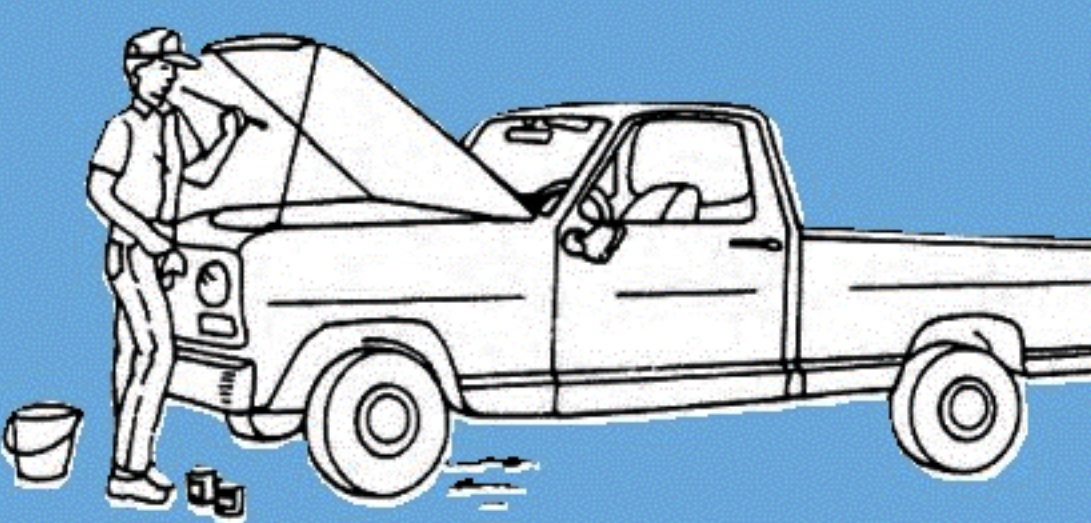
City of New Albany  
311 Hauss Square  
New Albany, IN 47150



Improving our **Stormwater Quality**  
Help Us Help You



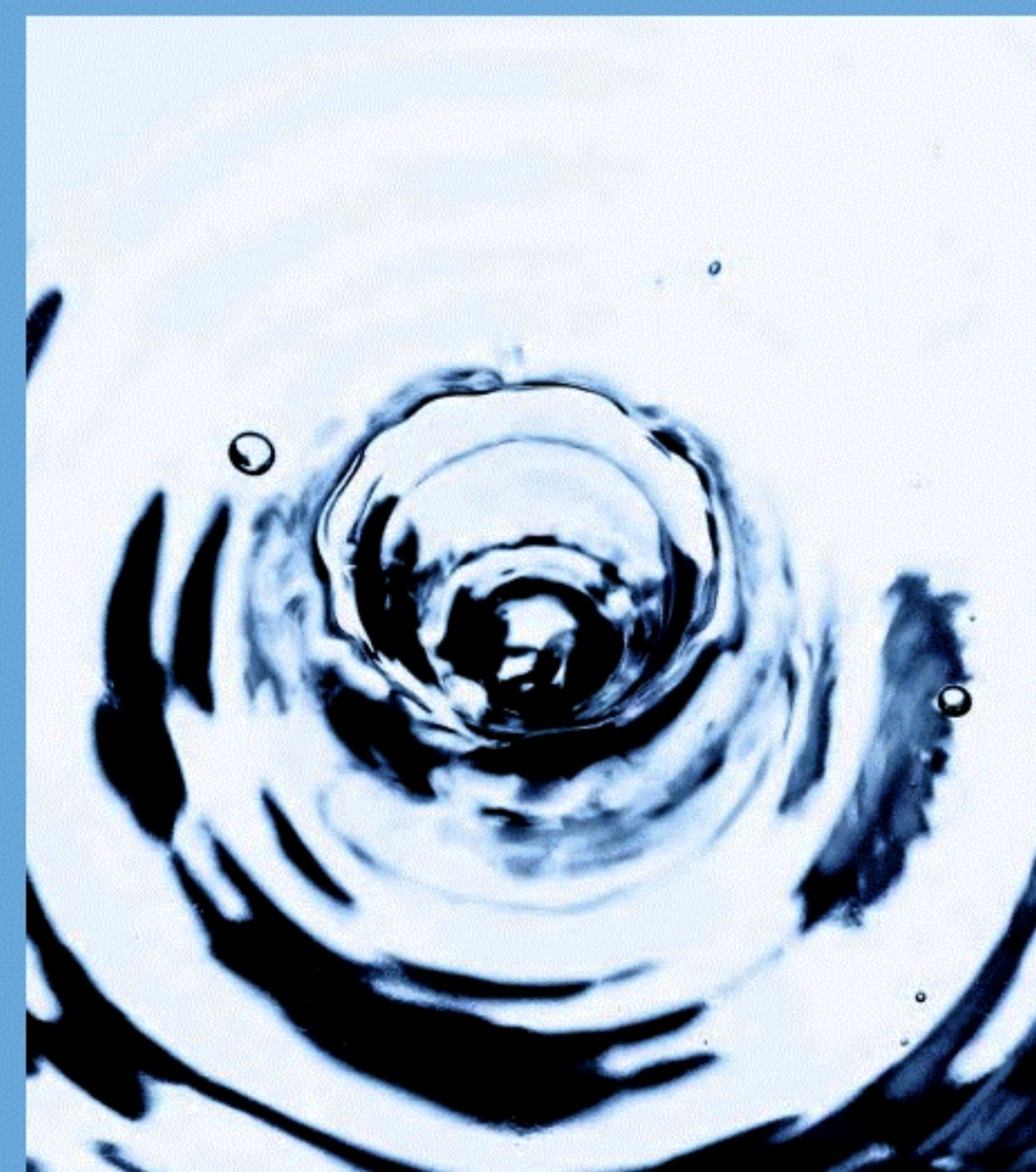
New Albany Stormwater  
Quality Program



# Improving Our Stormwater Quality

Our Water Is Our Opportunity and Responsibility

**Water. We drink it, wash with it, play in it, and run our industries with it.** As a River community, New Albany's quality of life depends greatly on the quality and quantity of the water around us.



## History

Since the enactment of the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Congress in 1972, local and state governments have worked with industries and wastewater treatment plants to reduce pollution and benefit the quality of receiving streams. As the end-of-pipe pollution sources were reduced, however, it became apparent that other types of pollutants were having significant impact on the quality of waterways. These nonpoint pollution sources (NPS) include urban runoff, (sediment, fertilizers and pesticides), construction site runoff stream channelization, and mining. To address these NPS of pollution, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and IDEM initiated the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I and Phase II stormwater programs. As required by state regulators, New Albany began participating in this program in 2003. This unfunded federal & state mandate has required the City to do more and incur more costs.

## What is NPS Stormwater Pollution?

Stormwater runoff picks up pollutants from our yards, streets, development sites and agricultural fields. It carries the pollution into streams, rivers and groundwater causing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is responsible for over half of the poor stormwater quality in the United States.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Stormwater Fees

**What is a stormwater utility user fee? An alternative to higher taxes.**

***A tax would not make larger non-residential properties pay their fair share. A user fee is a mechanism for the City to recover costs for services it must provide to meet public demands and stormwater regulations. The City is structured to recover costs fairly and equitably so that properties with the greatest impact pay the highest fees. Residential properties will be charged a flat rate of \$2.00 per month from January through May and \$3.17 per month thereafter while non-residential properties will be charged based on the amount of impervious area.***

**Are we the only community with a stormwater user fee? No.**

***Stormwater user fees have been imposed in many cities in the United States and over 50 in Indiana. Nearby communities include the Cities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and Louisville.***

**Why do we need a stormwater user fee?**

***Unlike sewer and water services, there is no dedicated funding for the stormwater drainage system. Previously, the City of New Albany has used wastewater funds (taxes) to maintain the stormwater system, this was not sufficient and no longer possible. The City has chosen a more sustainable, fair, and equitable way to fund the increasing stormwater costs. A stormwater user fee will provide revenue to maintain and improve existing stormwater infrastructure in New Albany as well as implement a comprehensive stormwater quality management plan as required by the EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).***

**What will the user fees be based on? The Fair Share.**

***The stormwater utility user fee will ultimately use the amount of impervious area to estimate stormwater runoff from properties. This way properties with large parking lots and buildings will pay more than smaller properties with fewer impervious surfaces.***

**What is impervious surface?**

***Impervious surfaces are those disturbed or hardened surface areas that prevent or limit the natural entry of stormwater into the soil. Rooftops, buildings, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, asphalt, concrete, other paving, driveways, compacted gravel, patios, and artificial turf are all examples of impervious surfaces. These improvements reduce natural infiltration, which increases stormwater runoff.***

**How is the impervious surface measured?**

***In order to determine how much impervious surface is on a piece of developed property, the City utilized computerized maps known as Geographic Information System (GIS) and digitized aerial photography to measure the total square footage of the impervious surfaces of all non-residential properties.***

## What We Must Do To Improve Our Community's Water Quality

The City of New Albany is examining ways to improve our community's water quality. Plans are in place to improve stormwater quality, through methods and programs we can follow to increase our awareness and improve our activities. The cost of improving stormwater quality and reducing flooding dangers is an expensive endeavor. New Albany has chosen to follow the example of hundreds of similar communities across the country by implementing an impervious area based user fee. We must all take responsibility and share in these costs.

To pay for these stormwater quality improvements, residential properties will be charged a flat fee of \$2.00 per month from January through May and \$3.17 per month thereafter. Non-residential properties will be charged based on how much impervious area they have.

Test Your Knowledge and give input on stormwater issues:  
[www.newalbanystormwater.com](http://www.newalbanystormwater.com)

## Benefits to Our Community

The benefits of improving our stormwater system include reducing our drainage and flooding problems and having cleaner stormwater. As our drainage system is able to handle more water volume, the threat of flooding to streets and homes decreases.

As our water quality improves, we will be able to:

- Enjoy cleaner creeks for recreation
- Become a better neighbor to communities downstream
- Leave a legacy of cleaner water reserves to our children and grandchildren.

## Do You Have Questions?

The City of New Albany has set up a hotline for you to ask questions and express your concerns. The hotline number is (812) 948-5399 or visit the City's website at [www.cityofnewalbany.com](http://www.cityofnewalbany.com)

### Help Us Help You.

Environmental Protection Agency:  
[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)

Indiana Dept. of Environmental Mgmt.:  
<http://www.state.in.us/idem/>

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources:  
<http://www.state.in.us/dnr/>