

# The Water Drop

Fall 2022



Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

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*The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality is a group of five local governments working together to meet our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit. Our mission is to bring stormwater pollution awareness, preventions and solutions for the residents of Morgan County through public education and community involvement.*

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Did you know that The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality has a new website, Facebook page and Instagram?

<https://mcpwq.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Morgan-County-Partnership-for-Water-Quality-106226147941275>

<https://www.instagram.com/mcpwq46151/>



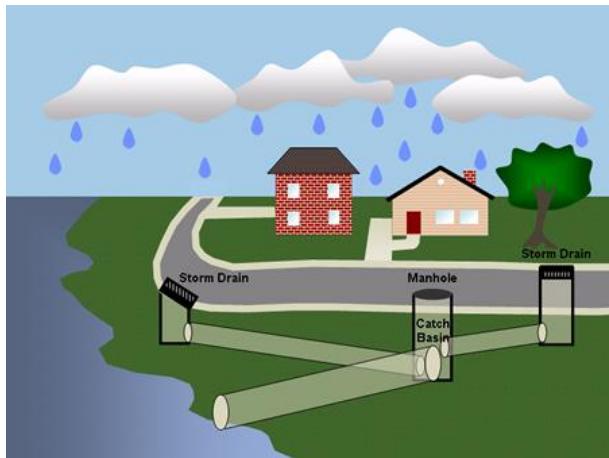
# The Water Drop

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## Storm Water Pipes in Martinsville

Recently, I was able to walk on South Street in Martinsville. This is the street near the high school that is currently under construction. With the construction, I was able to see some of the storm water infrastructure that is normal not visible.

Storm drains can be seen on our streets in Martinsville. But do you know how the storm drain system works and how the water flows? I went to South Street with Gary Oakes, Director of Planning & Engineering, with the city of Martinsville, along with Lisa MacPhee from Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District. Gary showed us the storm drain system infrastructure that was being installed while construction to improve South Street was going on.



Our first stop was to look at the installation of catch basins. Catch Basins which get a manhole cover. The storm water runoff first flows from the impervious surfaces to a storm drain. Once the stormwater runs onto the streets it flows down the gutter to a catch basin.

Catch basin are what they sound like. They catch water flowing from the streets into the grates. From the catch basin the stormwater runoff flows through a series of pipes. When the pipes were being laid on South Street

they ran into a water line that was not marked on the maps. This created a delay in project. Fortunately, the crews were able to work around the water lines and dig to allow the storm pipe to be placed where it needed to go.

The pipes then drain to a local water way. In the case of the drains on South Street some of it drains to Sartor Ditch. The other section of South Street flows to Ohio Street and drains to a water way from there. Eventually, the storm water runoff flows into White River and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico.



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## Leaves and Yard Debris as Storm Water Pollutants?!?

It's that time of year! Leaves are falling from the trees.



Are leaves considered stormwater pollution?

When leaves are raked or blown into the street, drains get clogged and the leaves start to decompose creating nutrients that are not good for the water. The leaves when breaking down (decomposing) make nutrients. Excessive amounts of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen can cause eutrophication, or the depletion of oxygen in water, resulting in death of aquatic animals like fish.

When drains become clogged with leaves, mud or other debris water can't flow out of the drain system. This causes flooding.

Options for leaves include:

- Putting them on the curb for the street vac to pick them up
- Bag them
- Compost the leaves
- Leave the leaves on your yard - Leaves in your yard break down over the winter and basically fertilize your yard.

Keep your leaves out of the storm drains!



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## Do you live in a watershed?

Think about where you live...  
Do you think you are part of a watershed?  
How do you know if you live in a watershed?

Project WET is a water education program. The definition for a watershed, used in this program is – an area of land drained by a river and its tributaries to a common outlet. Streams and creeks drain into rivers. Smaller rivers drain into larger river that eventually drain into the oceans.

Not all water in a watershed can be seen! After a rain or snow event where does water go? Some water goes straight into the rivers, streams, creeks, and the storm drain system. Some water infiltrates into the ground. The water that is absorbed into the ground is stored in to the underground aquifers. Thinking about where you live, have you noticed water flowing during a rain storm or after a snow melt? Where does the water flow? Does the water flow through your yard to the street? Down your drive to the street? What happens to the water once it goes to the street? The water flowing through where you live eventually drains into a stream, lake, or river!

You may live in an area that you can't see flowing water but you still live in a watershed!

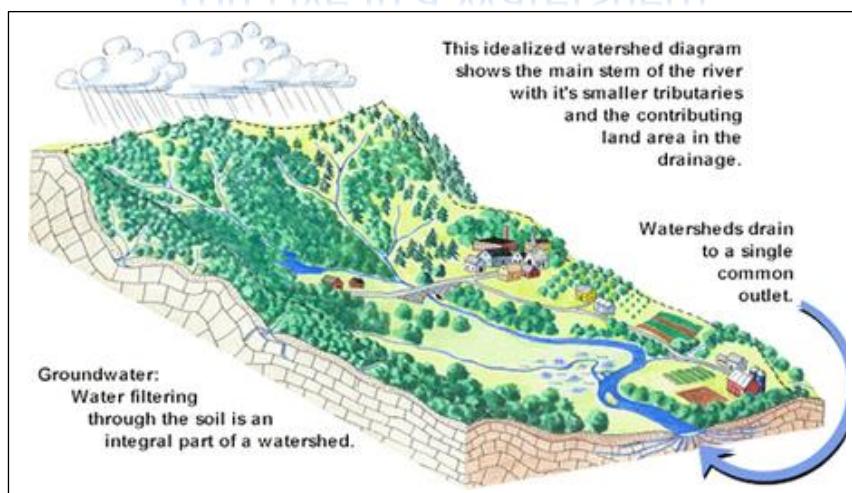
Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Watersheds crisscross across the country. Smaller, local watersheds are part of bigger watersheds. Inside of a watershed you will find everything. Water, land, deserts, air, cities, farms, plants, animals, people, mountains, etc. Everything is affected by the watershed.

***We do live in a watershed! Everywhere on this planet is part of a watershed!***

It is important to understand watersheds. Watershed are all around us – EVERYWHERE! That means we need to pay attention and take care of our watersheds. Simple things you can do to help our watersheds:

- Put litter in its proper place
- Make sure your vehicles are not leaking fluids
- Do not put hazardous materials in storm drain inlets
- Future issues will go look at more ways you can help watersheds

## You Live in a Watershed!



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## Farmers' Day

In October Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality participated in Farmers' Day. Farmers' Day is a community event that Purdue Extension hosts annually at Morgan County Fairgrounds.

Community organizations come together with FUN educational activities for people to enjoy. 4-H participants joined in by volunteering their time and some volunteered their animals. Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District had a fantastic soil activity. I heard that it was great fun and a little messy. There was a popcorn exhibit, which many enjoyed. The antique tractors were on site. Apple butter was being made. Morgan County Native and Invasive Plant Partnership was on site educating about invasive plants. The Master Gardeners held a raffle for a big pumpkin.

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality set up the Duck Derby. This was a hit with many folks! The participants pumped clean water through PVC Pipes to help their ducks get back to the tank. While the race was going on I was able to talk with folks about keeping stormwater and water sources clean.

Handouts with stormwater information, grocery bags, and educational coloring books were given to those that were visiting with us at the booth.



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## GET INVOLVED!

The Morgan County Fall Tox-Away Day is NEXT Saturday, October 29, 2022, at Martinsville High School from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm (rain or shine).

**MORGAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**  
Businesses may call NuGenesis at 800-487-1010 to make other arrangements.

What You Can Dispose of for FREE: Prescription Medications & Sharps, Oil fuels, Antifreeze, Motor Oil/Filters, Adhesives, Driveway Sealers, Stain, Pesticides, Herbicides, Fertilizers, Pool Chemicals, Varnish, Auto Batteries, Oil Base and Latex Paints, Paint Tubes/PCB, Ballasts, Acids & Bases, Household Cleaning Agents, Rechargeable Batteries, and Weed Killers.

Morgan County Solid Waste Management will accept all Appliances (CFC & non-CFC) for FREE: Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Water Heaters, Microwaves, Humidifiers, and De-Humidifiers.

FEES for TELEVISIONS and MONITORS: \$20.00 each

FEES for TIRES are as follows:

Car/Light Truck Tires: First 6 free - \$2.00 per each additional tire (12 max)

Heavy/Truck Tires: First 2 free - \$5.00 per each additional tire (6 max)

Farm Tractor Tires (54" diameter & greater): intact, \$75.00 each; if fully Quartered (No Halves & No Thirds): first two quartered tires for free; \$15.00 for each additional quartered tire (6 max)

Tires on rims are an additional \$1.00 each

Morgan County Solid Waste WILL NOT ACCEPT Asbestos, Lab Chemicals, Large Propane Tanks, Explosives, Ammunition or Firearms, Medical or Infectious Waste, or Radioactive Materials.

Fall Tox-Away Day is Conducted by:  
Morgan County Solid Waste Management District

With the support of:  
[Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality](#)  
[Indiana American Water](#)  
[Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District](#)  
[Healthier Morgan County Initiative](#)  
and the [Morgan County Substance Abuse Council](#)  
<https://www.morgancountysolidwaste.org/tox-a-way>

Or call the Morgan County Solid Waste Management District at 765-342-2533 with questions.



With the support of:  
The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality,  
Morgan County Substance Abuse Council, Morgan  
County Soil and Water Conservation District, The  
Indiana American Water Co. and The Healthier  
Morgan County Initiative

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## GET INVOLVED!

### Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District

#### Tree Giveaway Program and Pre-Order

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth's greatest natural resources. They keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade and help make our landscapes look beautiful.

This program allows you to pre-order up to 10 trees (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) in the fall and when trees are received in the spring the SWCD will contact you with pick-up information.

This year's seedlings will be ordered from Vallonia State Nursery, whose mission is to grow and distribute to landowners high quality plant materials for conservation plantings. Conservation Plantings include plantings for timber, wildlife, windbreaks, soil and water protection, reclamation, carbon sequestering and education. Seedlings will be 1-2 years old

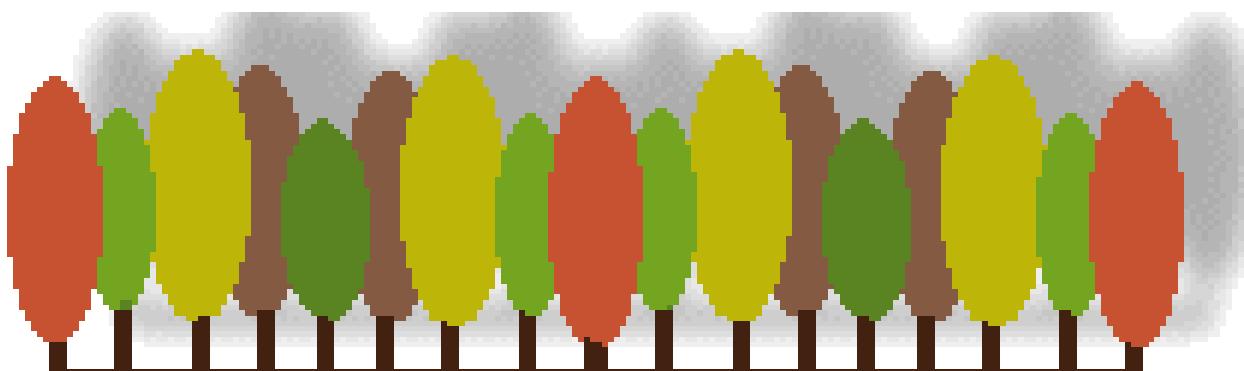
To order visit:

<https://www.morgancountyswcd.org/freetrees>

## DEADLINE

for all orders is

**NOVEMBER 1, 2022**



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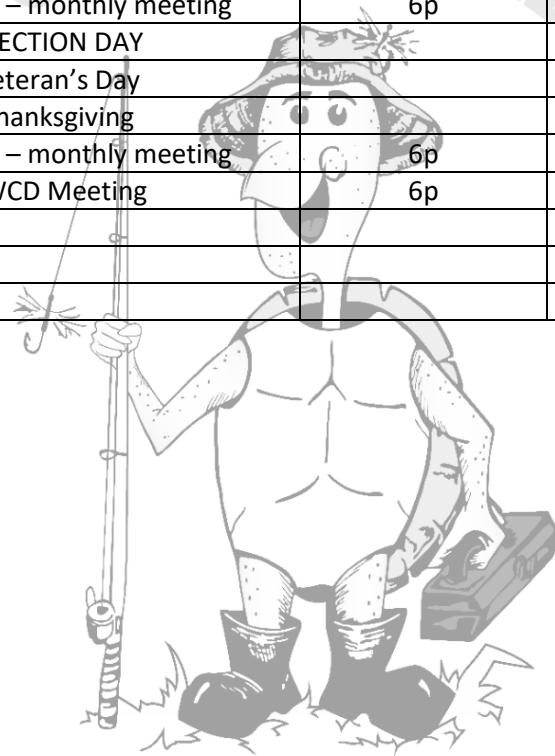
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Tox-A-Way day

## GET INVOLVED!

## Community Event Calendar

Date	Group	Time	Additional Info
10/29/2022	MCSWD – Tox Away Day	9a – 1p	Martinsville High School
10/29/2022	MC NIPPS – Weed Wrangle	9a – 12n	Ravinia Woods
11/1/2022	MC NIPPS – monthly meeting	6p	Administration Building
11/8/2022	ELECTION DAY		Go Vote!
11/11/2022	Veteran's Day		Thank you Veterans!
11/24/2022	Thanksgiving		
12/6/2022	MC NIPPS – monthly meeting	6p	Administration Building
12/14/2022	SWCD Meeting	6p	Administration Building



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## CONTACT US



Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

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<https://mcpwq.org>