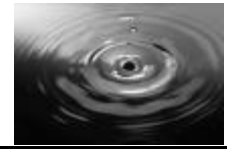


ON THE SURFACE



HOW DOES INCREASED GROWTH IMPACT CLARK COUNTY?

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement C9975482-02 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Clark County has experienced considerable development over the last 10 to 15 years. Expansion has led to increased construction sites, with more homeowners than ever before. Urban sprawl has begun, meaning people are moving from urban centers to suburban America, where everyone has a home and a yard area. Since development has increased, there has been a proportional decrease in land used for crops and grazing. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Clark County lost more than 15,000 acres of farmland through conversion to non-agricultural uses from 1982 to 1992. This total included more than 13,000 acres of cropland. From 1990 to 2000, the total population of Clark County grew from 87,774 to 96,472 persons. Eighty percent of our population lives in urban or suburban areas. This is classic urban sprawl, a trend in land use toward urban areas with a loss in farmland. An increased population demands somewhere to live. And the result is expansion.



Soil erosion in a new subdivision

With urban growth comes an increase in nonpoint source (nps) pollution. It is pollution from lawn fertilizers, soil erosion, vehicle fluids, household hazardous waste, and much more. These combined pollutants impair water quality for drinking, boating, aquatic life and more. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, nps pollution is our nation's largest water quality problem and is why 40% of our nation's waters are unable to meet basic needs like swimming and fishing.



Storm Drain Marker

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR STORM DRAIN MARKING

This upcoming spring, the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District will continue doing storm drain marking in the Jeffersonville and New Albany areas. Storm drain marking programs are taking place around the country and are designed to create public awareness that storm drains flow to rivers, streams, bays, and oceans. In Clark and Floyd County, we are using a 4" circular plastic

marker that states "No Dumping, Drains to River." So far, over 3,000 storm drains have been marked and there are still many more to do! There will be two storm drain marking field days in April/May, but volunteers can be used at any time. All the necessary equipment is provided. If you are interested in participating, contact the Urban Project Coordinator at 256-2330 ext. 109.

Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District

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For more info visit:
[http://www.clarkswcd.org/
Urban/UrbanEduProject.htm](http://www.clarkswcd.org/Urban/UrbanEduProject.htm)



The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) strives to help the people of Clark County manage, conserve, and enhance natural resources for present and future generations through education, public information, leadership, technical assistance and the development of innovative programs.

SOIL EROSION

Erosion causes soil, sand, and mud to move into waterways from construction sites and yards. Erosion happens when rain drops loosen soil particles. Water then carries the soil particles with it. Soil particles in water make it difficult for fish to breathe and eat. Soil particles also cover gravel spawning beds. The muddy water blocks light to vegetation, causing the plants to die. Finally, soil particles, collectively called sediment, fill in lakes and streams.



Here are some things that you can do to help prevent soil erosion in your own yard:

- Use less concrete and pavement. Instead, use material, such as crushed rocks, that aid water infiltration during rains.
- Seed bare areas immediately. Cover them with hay or straw to allow the seedlings to take hold and grow.
- Plant ground cover in heavily shaded areas where most plants will not grow.
- Use temporary erosion control measures like silt fence, temporary plant cover, and erosion control blankets to protect areas left bare from land disturbing activities

Left: A storm drain filled with soil

RECYCLING

Materials that go to a landfill do not degrade. Recycling remains an important step in helping keep our landfills open longer. Many products we use daily contain recyclable materials. Glass, milk cartons, newspapers, cardboard, aluminum cans, soda bottles, and other materials can be recycled. Here are some lesser known recyclable items:

- *Yard Waste:* Create a compost pile with grass clippings and leaves. Use the compost in vegetable and flower gardens.
- *Motor Oil:* Call to make an appointment to drop off oil at the used motor oil collection center at the Clark County Solid Waste Management District.

- *Batteries:* Recycle your household and automotive batteries, because they contain toxic heavy metals. When possible, use a rechargeable battery or plug into an AC/DC adapter. Used household batteries and dry cell batteries may be dropped off at the Clark County Solid Waste Mgmt District. Lead acid batteries should be dropped off at retail stores where those types of batteries are sold.

