CITY OF LAFAYETTE

WET WEATHER PROGRAM

Valley Street Drainage Improvements

In Lafayette, a natural depression, or low area, along Valley Street has been a source of poor drainage for years. Even after a short rainfall, streets and roadside ditches flood creating a challenge for those traveling in and out of the area. Excess stormwater also can overload the combined sanitary and storm sewer, which can result in raw sewage overflows into local waterways. Standing water in yards also inconveniences residents and businesses.

To resolve these drainage problems, the city will utilize natural and manmade solutions to reduce flooding and raw sewage overflows along Valley Street.

Rain Gardens to Filter Pollutants

Just north of Valley Street near the intersection of South and 9th streets, the city plans to plant rain gardens, which allow excess stormwater to seep or infiltrate into the ground rather than flood the roadway. The rain gardens also will serve as a natural filter, helping to remove pollutants such as silt, oil from cars, trash and other possible pollutants before the stormwater flows into local waterways.

North of Congress Street, a detention basin will reduce flooding by storing stormwater that runs off of rooftops, streets and yards in the surrounding neighborhood. When capacity becomes available in the sewer, the water will drain from the basin into the sewer. In addition to reducing flooding, the basin also will include water quality improvements to remove possible pollutants.

Along with these environmental-based solutions, Lafayette also will separate the combined stormwater and sanitary system along Valley Street. The sewer separation will reduce raw sewage overflows into local waterways, which can occur during and after wet weather.

Sewer Separation to Reduce Raw Sewage Overflows

Highlights

Project: Drainage improvements
Estimated Project Cost: $4,249,000
Status: Planning
Project Benefits:

- Reduced flooding in streets and yards
- Improved water quality in the Wabash River
- Reduced pollutants in local waterways
- Enhanced aesthetics with rain gardens in neighborhood
- Compliance with state and federal regulations

The Valley Street Drainage Improvements project is part of Lafayette's capital improvement program to improve the water quality of the Wabash River and other local streams and to address poor drainage conditions. The projects will reduce flooding and satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.