CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE

WET WEATHER PROGRAM

Purdue Research Park Stormwater Improvements

Located along U.S. 52 between Yeager Road and Cumberland Avenue, Purdue Research Park is home to several technology-based companies. Purdue Research Foundation began developing the business park in the late 1990s with the goal of creating local economic growth of companies in the engineering, life sciences, homeland security and advanced manufacturing and information technology industries.

In keeping with the forward thinking of these businesses, the City of West Lafayette is considering water quality improvements to the detention pond and drainage system in the Purdue Research Park.

Native Plants to Filter Stormwater Pollutants

During and after wet weather, the detention pond serves as a temporary storage area for stormwater that runs off of rooftops, streets and lawns. The stormwater that enters the detention pond can become polluted with oil from cars, trash and other pollutants, which creates an unhealthy environment for humans and aquatic life. The stormwater from the pond flows to Celery Bog Nature Center where waterfowl and other wildlife can be observed by visitors.

To improve the quality of stormwater entering Celery Bog and eventually the Wabash River, the city will install native plants and vegetation along the shoreline of the detention pond and create a constructed wetland environment. The aquatic plantings will help filter polluted stormwater that originates from upstream of the nature center. Flow control improvements also allow for infiltration, which reduces the overall amount of stormwater flowing off-site.

Celery Bog, Wasbash River to Benefit

The Purdue Research Park Stormwater Improvements project is part of West 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 chronic flooding and satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.