



Department of Communications

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**GARY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (GSWMD) HOSTS ITS
13th ANNUAL CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION**

Gary, Indiana- June is Lake Michigan *Coastal Awareness Month* in Indiana (CAM). The month gives Hoosiers the chance to learn more about the Lake Michigan Coastal Program and celebrate the area's splendor by increasing their awareness of the region's importance. Lake Michigan is a source of recreation, drinking water, and industry. The 45 miles of shoreline in Indiana is the most diverse in the Great Lakes region. The State of Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program, along with local community and non-profit partners, is working to preserve this natural and cultural gem for the children of tomorrow. We're encouraging everyone to get outside and explore the Lake Michigan area of northwest Indiana.

The City of Gary will host the 13th Annual Clean Water Celebration June 22-24, 2017 at Marquette Park! The Gary Storm Water Management District (GSWMD) in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs/Green Urbanism is hosting this 3-day event with support from Gary Parks & Recreations, and other clean water partners. Sponsorship from Indiana American Water, Attorney Deidre Monroe, Whittaker & Company and Aspire Charter School help us to offer free activities to the public in observance of Lake Michigan Coast Awareness Month.

Our Water Quality Partners have coordinated activities centered on the theme, "*Celebrate Our Coast: Fresh, Water Fun!*" Activities begin with a Brunch & Award Program on June 22, 2017 by invitation only and *A Nature Conservation Tour* will be held on Friday, June 23, 2017 from 9:00a to 2:00p. This tour is intended to be an opportunity for all to share the language of natural resources, while understanding and communicating to others about how you plan to live, work, play, learn, and pray in harmony with our unique natural ecosystem. Please RSVP to Paul Leffler at (Paul.M.Leffler@usace.army.mil). Space is limited.

On Saturday June 24, 2017, we've planned the *Clean Water Festival*, a day of free recreational, educational, and fun-filled activities for both youth and adults to enjoy. This outdoor event will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Marquette Park near the lagoons in Area 5. Activities include free canoe training and paddling on the Lagoon, free paddle boat rides, kayak rides, beach safety, fishing education, nature creative art demonstration, water quality presentations, Fitness in

the Park, nature hike, informational booths and refreshments. Everyone can play a role to keep our water clean by taking the *Clean Water Pledge*.

Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, states, "The educational focus is to increase public awareness about clean water and how we all can play an important role throughout our community to protect and preserve Gary's natural resource through pollution prevention practices and control of erosion and storm water run-off." Brenda Scott-Henry believes that collaboration and coordination with various groups and organizations is pivotal to achieve these common goals. As such, newest partner for the Clean Water Festival is Aspire Charter Academy, will oversee the Children's PlayZone. This activity promotes physical activities and healthy food choices for youth; and our Parks and Public Safety Task-Force will conduct a presentation promoting safe and wise uses of Lake Michigan waters. Review June's calendar of events that will occur in various communities at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/6202.htm>.

The Clean Water Celebration will also include information and activities supported by GSWMD's Storm Water Public Education and Outreach Program as well as other projects and programs by local organizations, business, and environmental organizations. The primary purpose for this public education and outreach activity is to provide local residents, businesses, and youth with information on the effects of storm water run-off on water quality and quantity and how to implement storm water pollution prevention practices in our daily lives, says Dan Vicari, GSWMD Executive Director. The Gary Storm Water Management District and the City of Gary Common Council enacted a modified Storm Water Ordinance in July of 2006 as mandated by the US EPA Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program. The Phase II regulation requires six minimum control measures for inclusion in the NPDES permit. These measures are:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Activity booths are available upon request for governmental and environmental-related organizations promoting protection and preservation of our waterways and natural resources. For more information, contact Brenda Scott Henry, Director at (219) 882-3000 or bhenry@ci.gary.in.us. The office is located at 839 Broadway, Suite N206, Gary, Indiana 46402.

