

Urban Waters Initiative:



Merrillville, Indiana

Overarching Project

Trees in Indiana's urban areas have been proven to have specific monetary and ecological benefits. The focus of this project was to implement strategic urban forest plantings to maximize the functional benefits of trees to enhance our land, air and water resources within the Great Lakes Basin. Many of the tributaries in Northwest Indiana are impaired water bodies that ultimately drain into Lake Michigan.

Hoosiers get their water supplies from ground and surface waters, which can become significantly polluted from point and non-point sources (stormwater runoff).

Trees provide significant stormwater quality and flood management benefits. They absorb and remediate pollutants that impact our waterways, slow down, and store, large volumes of stormwater and stabilize soils to reduce erosion.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Community & Urban Forestry (CUF) Program allocated \$75,000 in GLRI grant funds to focus on three (3) significant projects in Northwest Indiana that would demonstrate practices on the ground to enhance impaired tributaries that flow into Lake Michigan.

On-the-ground Progress

The Town of Merrillville received one of these grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, CUF Program to address non-point source pollution and demonstrate how riparian tree plantings can enhance stormwater runoff within an urbanized watershed.

The project area was initially surveyed and select damaged/dead trees were removed. Additional clearing and snagging operations were conducted within the stream and along the banks to remove dead and/or displaced woody and non-woody debris.

This riparian planting site was previously a parking lot that was converted to green space by removing existing asphalt and concrete to convert this hardscape into a suitable planting site. This site is located along an unnamed tributary that drains into Turkey Creek which is also adjacent to a stormwater detention pond.

This factsheet is part of a larger project that included regional targeted tree planting in three communities within Lake and Porter Counties. For more information please contact the IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Coordinator at (317)234-4386 or urbanforestry@dnr.in.gov.



This project was made possible by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Community and Urban Forestry Program and a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

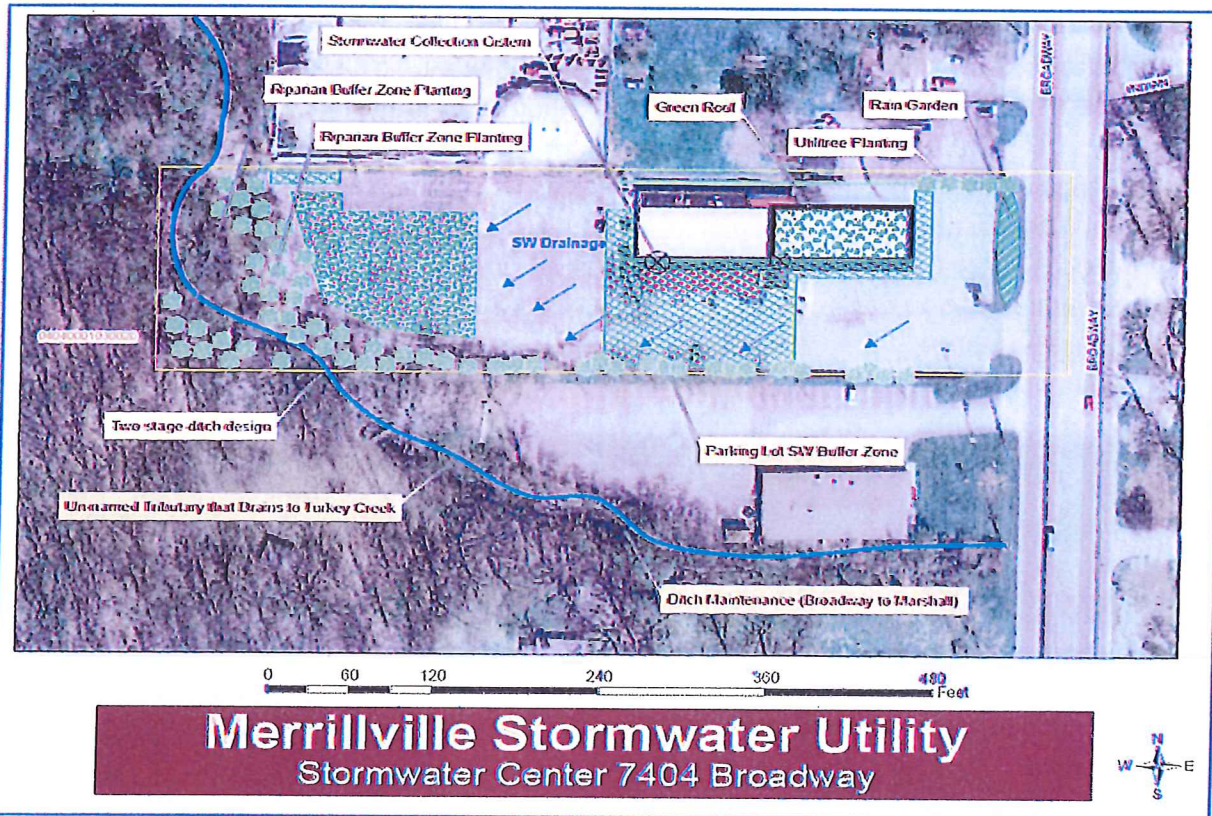
Project Breakdown

Grantee:	Merrillville Stormwater Utility
Grant Award Amount:	\$35,000*
Grant Match Amount:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard Dollar: \$11,729.72 • In-Kind Match: \$1,862.07
Total Project Amount:	\$27,179.57
Tree Planting Location(s):	Unnamed tributary at 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN.
No. of Trees Planted:	56
No. of Trees Removed	20



Over the next 20 years, this planting will provide Average Total Annual Benefits:

Stormwater (gallons) sequestered	Stormwater benefits saved (\$)	Air Quality improvement (\$)	Pounds of CO ₂ sequestered
41,834 gals	\$1,133.64	\$305.67	21,542 lbs



Total Average
Annual Benefits
Over 20 Years:

\$4,336



* Due to delayed construction of the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, an extended harsh winter, and exceptionally wet spring, Merrillville scaled back their project only utilizing \$13,587.78 in grant funds.

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