

Waterlines Express - News from DNR Division of Water

Indiana Department of Natural Resources sent this bulletin at 08/16/2024 07:48 AM EDT



Thank you for subscribing to the Indiana DNR Division of Water's (DOW) email newsletter and your interest in the division's mission to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use water resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Inspect & Maintain: Dam Owner Best Practices

Performing regular inspections and maintenance tasks on your dam is a necessary practice throughout its entire lifespan. Inspecting the dam, accessory structures, and surrounding areas can lead to early detection of deficiencies. Maintenance tasks can help preserve the functionality of the dam and prevent more costly repairs in the future. Making both activities part of your routine is an easy way to help extend the longevity of your dam.

Here's a list of maintenance tasks you can add to your end-of-summer to-do list. These are relevant for the earthen dams common throughout Indiana.

- Regularly walk along the entire dam – especially after significant rain or seismic events.
- Look for signs of erosion or unusual wet/seepage areas. Monitor seepage areas for color change at point source from clear to muddy.
- Check for cracks, gulleys, bulges, or depressions on the embankment.
- Remove trees, brush, and woody vegetation from within 25 feet of the dam and all appurtenant works.
- Maintain a good grass cover on the embankment to prevent erosion.
- Mow dam as needed. Grass should remain no less than 6 inches tall.
- Trap and remove animals as needed. Backfill and compact any animal burrows.

- Promptly repair and establish a sod forming grass on eroded areas.
- Ensure proper drainage to prevent runoff from eroding the embankment.
- Keep spillway inlets and trash racks clear of debris and vegetation at all times. Note: Debris should be safely kept off trash rack. Removing debris during floods is dangerous and people have been trapped in drop inlet structures and drowned. If debris removal is necessary during floods, the use of mechanical equipment is a must, and human assistance in the water is not advisable.
- Repair any erosion or damage to spillway structures.
- Inspect and clean outlet pipes regularly as water levels allow.
- Monitor spillway pipes for failure and deterioration and notify your engineer with experience in dams of any spillway pipe failures.
- Check your records to see when your dam is due for its next inspection and mark your calendar.

Additional resources for dam owners can be found on the Division of Water's [website](#).



Bare spots



Brush to be removed along embankment.



Burrow - crawfish



Brush to be removed along groin.

Division of Water Upcoming Events

Indiana Flooding and Flood Tools Awareness Workshops

Monday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Plainfield; Made @ Plainfield Facility 1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield, 46168

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-noon, Evansville; American Red Cross Facility 29 S Stockwell Road

Thursday, Sept. 12, Michigan City (part of the INAFSM annual conference)

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/events-and-training/>

Presented by the Indiana Silver Jackets federal and state-level partners: Indiana DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Association, National

Weather Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Polis Center at IU Indianapolis, and more.

This three-hour workshop will address the common types and causes of flooding in Indiana, as well as flood-related regulations, mitigation best practices, and climate change impacts. A significant focus of this meeting will be on the flood risk reduction tools available, including flood risk management (FRM) data and tools, stream and lake gauges; flood inundation maps (FIMs); available data sources (i.e., Indiana Floodplain Information Portal); and partner agency FRM programs.

AUDIENCE: New and career personnel interested in learning about current tools and technology available for flood risk management in Indiana. Appropriate for county commissioners, county surveyors, emergency and floodplain managers, and soil and water conservation personnel.

Division of Water Open House

Wednesday, Sept. 4, Alexandria

You are invited to attend a DOW open house on Wednesday, Sept. 4 from 5-7 p.m. at the Emery Lee Building in Alexandria. This event is free and open to the public. The evening will provide open public question and answer opportunities. Staff from all DOW programs will be available to answer questions. There will be no formal presentation. Attendees are encouraged to arrive any time from 5-7 p.m.

This is the first in a series of similar open houses to be held throughout the state.

Join the DOW staff in a discussion about our state's vital water resources and how they impact you. Representatives from the DOW will share information about their work in Floodplain Management, Floodplain Mapping, Water Resource Assessment and Availability, Water Rights and Use, Dam and Levee Safety, Watershed Stewardship, Floodway and Lake Permits, and Compliance.

Questions about the event can be submitted via the [DOW website](#).

Invite Friends and Colleagues to *Waterlines Express*

Help grow the DOW community by inviting friends and colleagues to check it out. Forward this email to others impacted by water resources.

Subscription preferences can be [managed here](#).