

TOPIC: WATER BUDGETS

Overview

During dry periods, precipitation is reduced and the hydrologic cycle shifts into a deficit phase with water lost from the landscape due to processes such as transpiration and evaporation. Alternatively, during wet periods when rainfall is excessive, hydrologic components such as soil moisture become important because they directly influence the timing and duration of floods. Water budgets are tools used to quantify the movement of water in and out of a system. It is essential to monitor water-budget parameters such as precipitation, streamflow, soil moisture, lake levels, and groundwater elevations so that water planning can consider impacts that floods and droughts of certain magnitudes have on these water resources. The severity, location, and duration of floods and droughts have varied significantly since precipitation and streamflow monitoring began in the early 1900's.

Impacts on Our Water

Monitoring sites that record meteorological, streamflow, groundwater, and/or soil-moisture parameters are key components for understanding historic and current flood and drought conditions in Indiana.

More Information

<https://igws.indiana.edu/CGDA/waterBalanceNetwork.cfm>

Shawn Naylor
snaylor@indiana.edu



Photo courtesy of the Purdue Entomology Extension

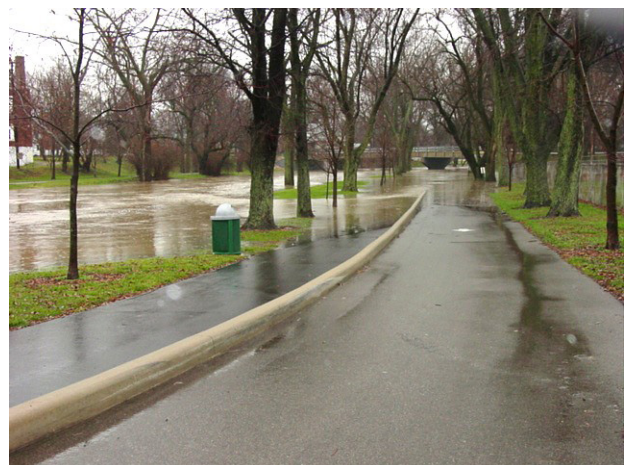


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