

# BENTON COUNTY STORMWATER PROGRAM

## -Storm Drains-

### Spooky or spectacular?

Storm drains are one of the most important defenses we have for flooding and are one of the main components of water conveyance systems in any town or city. That being said, storm drains have been portrayed as a bit spooky in recent pop culture, but in reality, they are one of our first lines of defense for stormwater runoff!

### What is a witch hat?

One term that many people have never heard of is a 'witch hat'. But you've probably seen them, and maybe wondered what they were! A witch hat is named for its shape, but it is a woven filter that can catch pollution, sediment, and litter as it enters the storm drain. Witch hats are often installed in active construction areas – you might be able to spot the edges of a witch hat sandwiched under a stormwater grate. Without them, a lot of contaminants would just end up draining straight to our rivers, so maybe they are a bit magic!



### Where does the water go?

One of the most important things to remember about stormwater is that it all goes to the same place – our rivers and streams! That is why it's important not to dump anything but water into a storm drain. Things like pet waste, gray water, or soaps or oils are all harmful to the environment and should not be put into a storm drain.

Because they can build up with trash and other items over time, witch hats and storm drains must be maintained to function properly. To do this, Benton County keeps an inventory of all of these features and regularly monitors and maintains our storm drains in good working order. We can all agree that only spooky thing about storm drains is the pollution that might end up in our rivers and streams!

## Learn More!

Marys River Watershed Council

<https://www.mrwc.org/>

Luckiamute Watershed Council

<https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/>

Mid-coast Watershed Council

<http://www.midcoastwatersheds.org/>

Long Tom Watershed Council

<https://www.longtom.org/>



## Program Contacts:

Gordon Kurtz

[gordon.p.kurtz@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:gordon.p.kurtz@bentoncountyor.gov)

Sheanna Steingass

[sheanna.steingass@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:sheanna.steingass@bentoncountyor.gov)

Or visit to learn more:  
[pw.bentoncountyor.gov/stormwater](http://pw.bentoncountyor.gov/stormwater)