

# 2025 Report on Regulated Drains

## Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office

Under IC 36-9-27 hereafter referred to as Drainage Law, the County Surveyor is required to make a report to the Drainage Board regarding the status of legal drains within the County. This report is duly submitted to address those requirements.

Under Section 36-9-27-34, the County Surveyor should classify drains as either in need of reconstruction, in need of periodic maintenance or drains that should be vacated. Based upon the definitions found in the code it is the opinion of the Vanderburgh County Surveyor that all legal drains within Vanderburgh County should be classified as in need of periodic maintenance.

The report is broken down into the following sections:

- **Report on Drains**
- **Major Issues**
- **Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission (PCWDC)**
- **Current Account Balances**
- **Proposed Billing Rates – Submitted & Approved 01/27/2026**

The following report duly submitted by the Vanderburgh County Surveyor to the Vanderburgh County Drainage Board on January 27, 2026.

*Linda Freeman*

Linda Freeman, Vanderburgh County Surveyor

# Report on Drains

Vanderburgh County has approximately 80 miles of regulated drain. The drains consist of thirty-six drains. For this report the drains are divided into the following areas:

- **Southeast Side and South Side Ditches**
- **Center Township Drainage: Sonntag-Stevens, Henry and Keil Ditch**
- **Armstrong/Scott Townships Drainage**
- **Union Township**
- **East Side Urban (Knight City)**
- **Multicounty Drainage**

During 2025 measured rainfall per National Weather Service Paducah for Evansville, IN was 56.46" which was 7.47" above the 30-year average annual rainfall for Evansville. Temperatures trended higher with an annual average temperature of 58.1° F, which is an increase of 0.9° F over the 30-year average.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Rainfall (in inches) as measured at Evansville Regional</b>
2025	56.46
2024	49.33
2023	41.63
2022	45.32
2021	45.60

## Southeast Side and South Side Ditches

**Kolb Ditch**, runs diagonally from Covert Avenue, beginning about ½ mile east of Green River Road, thence through Price Park, Eastland Estates, Audubon Estates, Chickasaw Park, then under the intersection of Pollack Avenue and Fuquay Road, through the Knight Township Levee, Angel Mounds State Historic Site, and into the Ohio River. Kolb Ditch is a little less than a mile and a half long and drains an area from Dexter Avenue on the west to the Warrick County Line on the east, and from the levee on the south to Gum Street on the north. During the year maintenance consisted of a spray application for broadleaf weeds and brush and bottom sterilization plus a fall mowing on Section A (Pollack to Chickasaw Park) of the drain and a mid-summer and fall mowing on Section B (Chickasaw Park to the north) of the drain.

Like many of the east side drains, the channel slope is relatively flat causing the drain to silt. Also, a portion of the drain runs through the retention pond for Audubon Estates. This pond has experienced a drop in the pool elevation due to a combination of porous soils and possibly due to the construction of I-69. The low water table in this pond has caused two problems, those being the erosion of both the inlet and outlet where Kolb Ditch runs through the pond. In 2017 a failed structure was removed on the outlet end and replaced with a rip rap channel. In 2021, the portion of the ditch that lies in farm field

northwest of the intersection of Pollack and Fuquay was selectively dipped, restoring the flow of water south through the pipe under the intersection. However, a portion of this ditch has already begun to re-silt. In 2023, letters were sent to two landowners just west of Ridgeway Avenue regarding landscaping and trees that were encroaching into the ditch and asked them to remove these or trim them to where they are above the top of the ditch. This issue was resolved with the banks being cleared to the top of the bank.

For 2026, the Surveyor recommends maintenance as follows: continue bottom sterilization and spraying of broadleaf weeds and brush and mowing as scheduled.



*Kolb Ditch South of Pollack*



*Kolb Ditch Northwest of Pollack and Fuquay*

**Eagle Slough**, at 30,040 feet or about 5-½ miles long, drains much of the land on the southeast side of Evansville and a good portion of the Ohio River bottoms in Knight Township. Eagle Slough in many places runs parallel to the levee and it is the understanding that it was constructed at the time that the levee was constructed with the dirt utilized in the construction of the levee. Eagle Slough watershed stretches from Waterworks Road on the west to about ½ mile past Green River Road on the east, and is roughly diamond shaped, reaching as far north as Bellemeade Avenue at its pinnacle and as far south as a point on the Ohio River just west of Wathen Road. The drain also receives drainage not only from runoff but also through short tributaries from levee pump stations K2 and K3 as well as the flow from Aiken Ditch (which carries the flow from levee pump station K1).

The drain is, overall, in good condition. Annual Ohio River floodwater continues to prevent herbicide applications sufficient to completely control undesirable vegetation. Continuous deposits of flood debris can pose significant problems when the material accumulates and obstructs the waterway as well as wildlife activity including construction of beaver dams.

A flyover was done on Eagle Slough in early January 2023. This has allowed the office to review the data and determine what areas additional maintenance will need to be accomplished from I-69 west to its termination. Currently, there are no immediate areas of concern. In 2025, INDOT began construction of the bridge and overpasses for the future expansion of I-69. All the proper permits were acquired prior to this construction, and it appears that it could be completed sometime in 2026. No negative impact should

occur due to the construction. Once it has all been completed, we will do an inspection of the areas affected and report any findings to the Drainage Board



*Eagle Slough east of Green River Road*



*Eagle Slough West of Weinbach Avenue*

**Aiken Ditch** drains much of the undeveloped farmland in an area east of Green River Road, south of Pollack and north and west of I-69. The regulation portion of the ditch begins on the south side of Pollack Avenue near the intersection of Seasons Ridge Blvd and proceeds west approximately 0.6 mile before turning southeast under I-69 at the Levee Pump Station K-1 and then flows southwest to where it intersects Eagle Slough just east of Green River Road. A portion of Aiken Ditch south of I-69 runs through an area delineated as a wetland by the IDNR. Special permits are required to operate within the designated wetland for certain ditch maintenance procedures customarily employed on regulated drains.

Maintenance of this drain consists of spray application for broadleaf weeds and brush over the entire drain as well as a mid-summer mowing of a portion of the drain and application of dormant herbicide and bottom sterilization on a portion of the drain. It is recommended that this application continue with additional spraying of a growth inhibitor in early spring that began in 2016 when rain events prevent mowing of the section from Pollack Avenue to the levee pump station.

The Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office vacated a portion of Aiken Ditch in 2023. That portion of the regulated drain that bisected the property at 5115 Pollack Avenue was vacated and a portion was added to the east of said property where the ditch now flows.

## Center Township Drainage

**Sonntag-Stevens Ditch** drains the Center Township industrial area between Lynch Road and St. George Road east of U.S. 41 and west of Oak Hill Road as well as subdivisions in this area and certain residential areas on the east side of Oak Hill Road. The drain begins just west of Oak Hill Road in two locations on the North and South sides of Cloverlawn 2 Subdivision. The two channels merge at the southwest corner of Cloverlawn and then proceeds generally west through the highly industrialized area between Lynch and Bergdolt Road before emptying to Keil drain on the south side of the former Whirlpool plant. A second channel of Sonntag Stevens begins just west of the intersection of Lynch and Hitch Peters Roads and flows northwest for approximately 1000' to a point where it intersects the main channel.

The drain is crossed by four railroad crossings in the following order from upstream to downstream:

- An out of service siding that appears to have at one time serviced mainly Purina Mills that is believed to be part of the CSX RR.
- A siding that serviced Inland Container (currently closed) that is believed to be part of CSX RR.
- The CSX spur line that crosses US 41 and parallels Lynch Road and then proceeds north and services Purina Mills and Inland Container and a few other industries.

- An abandoned spur line that connected to both the CSX and the Indiana Southern rail lines. This line from Indiana Southern to the south where it crosses Sonntag Stevens Drain is completely gone.

Current maintenance consists of late spring mowing for the areas within Cloverlawn subdivision. The remaining portion of the ditch receives a bottom sterilization treatment, spraying for broadleaf and brush and dormant spray treatment as well as a fall mowing and the addition of a mid-summer mowing that was started in 2021, on the entire ditch.

There is currently a project being reviewed to alleviate the flooding around Bergdolt Road and Clover Road by the County Engineer's Office that may involve work being done to Sonntag-Stevens Ditch. This is in the preliminary planning process, and the work will be coordinated with the County Surveyor's Office. We are also looking to clean out the ditch flowline from Clover Drive to the box culvert located under the Centerpoint entrance for 2323 Bergdolt Road. We have preliminary plans completed and would like to obtain bids in the early spring of 2026 with work to commence and be completed by the summer of 2026. In 2024, we had a request to relax the right of entry from 75' to 25' on property located at 2000 Lynch Road to allow tractor trailer storage. While this was being reviewed, it came to the attention of the County Surveyor's office that property located at 4208 Hitch Peters Road was now encroaching into the 75' right of entry with gravel and tractor trailer storage. We are working with the landowner to bring this into compliance but have yet to resolve this issue. Also, in 2025, Centerpoint requested to add a box culvert near 2608 Bergdolt Road for a new crossing that they will need along the east side of this property. They also asked for relaxation along the south portion of the property from 75' to 30' which was granted. Oak Hill Road reconstruction is planned for 2026 and will affect the beginning of Sonntag Stevens Ditch. The Vanderburgh County Engineer's office will be filing the paperwork to Affect a Vanderburgh County Regulated Drain for this project.

**Keil Ditch** runs parallel to the Indiana Southern (former Conrail) RR tracks beginning at St. George Road and proceeding along the back side of the old Whirlpool plant to where it intersects Sonntag-Stevens just northeast of Highway 41. While Keil was never mowed as part of a regular schedule it was recommended that beginning in 2019 that 2 mows be done on the ditch beginning at St George and going south to where a pipe crosses the ditch just north of the east spur (approximately 800'). Growth of phragmites in the area near Meisler trailers needs to be addressed by dipping the area. Selective dipping also is needed along the CenterPoint property especially where the channel is causing washing on the east bank. This work was bid out in 2021, but due to termination of a contract it was not completed and was not rebid in 2022. It is recommended that it be rebid in 2026.



*Area where Phragmites are growing*

Recommendations are to continue with herbicide application. An increase in the application rate in some areas where shrub trees are along the bank is needed. The drain needs to be cleared of debris and Phragmites (common reed) for approximately 1500' beginning at the northwest corner of the Meisler property south to the intersection with Sonntag Steven. We are also continuing bottom sterilization to this ditch which began in 2024 and will continue until such time as the ditch is restored to a suitable condition. Furthermore, a blockage and some erosion along the east bank near Sonntag Stevens also needs to be addressed.

**Henry Ditch** is a short ditch, approximately 0.6 miles, located along the north side of Kansas Road and then crosses Kansas Road via a culvert and heads southeast to Blue Grass Creek. The first portion of this drain is essentially the north roadside ditch of Kansas Road. Small growth necessitated mowing along this stretch of ditch. To the south, the drain has some heavy erosion.

As with 2025, a single fall mowing of the entire drain and a mid-summer mow along Kansas Road only is recommended as well as a dormant spray. The drain along Kansas Road had the bottom sterilized and a mow completed. It is recommended in 2026 that the ditch bottom be cleaned and dipped. Also, in the future that work begins reshaping the slopes of the ditch on the south side of Kansas Road due to serious pockets of erosion. This work will be done in conjunction with the local property owner.



## **Armstrong/Scott Townships Ditches**

For several decades the Big Creek Drainage Association or its members have performed the annual maintenance of the drains in Armstrong and Scott Townships. These drains include Pond Flat Main, Pond Flat Lateral A, Pond Flat Lateral B, Pond Flat Lateral D, Baehl, Buente Upper Big Creek, Hoefling, Maasberg, Kneer, Rexing Creek, Singer, Maidlow, Wallenmeyer and Barr's Creek. The drains under their purview are in good condition and generally only require regular annual maintenance and in some cases additional maintenance work.

In April of 2024, the County Surveyor's Office submitted a Construction in a Floodway permit to the Indiana Division of Water for a ditch reconstruction project on Pond Flat Main. The certificate for approval of application FW-31586-0 was received with a permit effective date of July 24, 2024. The work was completed in October 2024. This work started at the intersection of Nisbet Road and Pond Flat Main and continued southeasterly along the east and north sides of the ditch to a point approximately 2000 feet east of the intersection of Buente Upper Big Creek and Pond Flat Main ditches. This reconstruction effort consisted of re-establishing the banks by using a long-reach excavator to pull the banks back to a 1.5:1 slope to allow for more efficient maintenance and flow. The County Surveyor's office is looking into the crossing of Baehl Ditch at the intersection with Wallenmeyer Road to clean out and fix the ditch alignment of the culvert at this crossing. We will meet with the directors of Big Creek Drainage Association on January 5, 2026 to discuss what work they would like accomplished in 2026.

## **Union Township**

**Union Township Drains**, consist of Barnett, Cypress Dale/Maddox, Edmond, Helfrich/Happe and Kamp Drains. Over the past several decades these drains have been maintained by Union Township Ditch Association (UTDA) that customarily submit very low bids. These drains are all in very good condition. During 2025 maintenance consisted of selective mowing, ditch dipping and herbicidal spray applications. The drains under their purview are in good condition and generally only require regular annual maintenance and in some cases additional maintenance work. All the ditches in Union

Township will need to be billed in 2026. We met with Chris Winiger and Joe Steinkamp of UTDA on January 20, 2026 in the surveyor's office. Currently, Union Township legal drains are billed on a percentage basis, a system established prior to 1982. During a meeting on January 20, 2026, with Chris Winiger and Joe Steinkamp of UTDA, it was agreed to transition to an acreage-based billing system, consistent with other legal drains in the county. Our office will work closely with UTDA to facilitate this transition, hopefully for the payments due in 2027.

In 2023, UTDA had requested spraying of a portion of Barnett, Cypress Dale/Maddox and Edmond ditches beginning in 2024. This was also done in 2025 and will continue in 2026.



*Helfrich-Happe Ditch looking east from Seminary Road-typical of a Union Township Ditch*

## **East Side Urban (Knight City)**

The East Side Urban drains can be broken into two areas, those south of Morgan Avenue and those north; ESU S ½ and ESU N ½ respectively. The eight drains that comprise ESU-S½ convey storm water runoff northwardly and thence westward via the Old Wabash and Erie Canal, under Morgan Avenue, at the northwest corner of Wesselman Woods, thence through a natural slough into Pigeon Creek. The ESU-S ½ Drainage captures drainage from an area defined by north of Lincoln Avenue, east of Green River Road, west of Warrick County, and south of Morgan Avenue. The eight individual drains comprising ESU-S½ are Bonnie View Extension, Bonnie View, Crawford Brandeis, Harper<sup>1</sup>, Hirsch, Kelly, Nurrenbern, Stockfleth and Wabash Erie.

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<sup>1</sup> Harper Ditch was combined to the ESU-S ½ per IC 36-9-27-53 February 6, 2024 – during a DB meeting.

We also had the portion of Harper Ditch that is piped inspected in 2024. After receiving the inspection video and comments, we found a section of the pipe that had been damaged by a fiberoptic telephone line installation. The damage is minor, but repairs will be necessary in the future. We have found the contractor responsible for the damage and will coordinate with them first to determine if further action by the Board may be necessary.

The City of Evansville is proposing a project to help alleviate flooding in the East Side Urban watershed. The project kicked off in December 2022 with the main point being determining what challenges could be creating these flooding issues. The first phase of the project started in spring of 2025 and is nearing completion. Pictures are shown below of the improvements. To help with the future phases of this project, the County Surveyor's office had a portion of the Wabash Erie Canal silt dipped between Stockwell Road and Green River Road.



*Wabash Erie Canal Looking West from Stockwell Road Dec. 2025*



**Wabash Erie Canal Looking East from Stockwell Road Dec. 2025**

**Bonnie View Extension**, located in Summit Place 2 subdivision, is a short (0.1 mile) drain beginning at Cherry Street and proceeding north to Bonnie View. In 2018 the drain was mowed four times due to nearby property owners' requests and continued into 2026.

In 2019, the bottom of the drain was selectively dipped to promote better drainage. The County Surveyor continues to recommend a mowing schedule of four times per year to promote adequate grass cover of the channel banks and eliminate weeds. Previously, the County Surveyor at the request of and in conjunction with the Evansville City Engineering Office explored design alternatives to promote better drainage in this area. The city put forth a design that consisted of excavating the ditch out to widen the bottom and steepen the slopes and ultimately concreting the bottom and side slopes. However, material alone was estimated to cost around \$400,000 without the cost of labor. This idea was abandoned due to lack of economic feasibility.



*Bonnie View Extension*

**Bonnie View Drain** is an east west paved channel (0.25 miles) along its entire length south of the Target complex. The drain ties into Crawford Brandeis at the Southwest Corner of the Target Plaza at Burkhardt Road. The drain is in excellent condition. Beginning in 2017 a program was initiated with spraying, and, when required, cleaning the joints twice a year for weeds and clearing of debris and silt. It is recommended that this program be continued in 2026. This drain was cleaned and the bottom cleared using vacuums and high pressure hoses in 2025 after complaints of sewage debris overflow.



*Bonnie View Concrete Ribbon Liner*

**Crawford Brandeis** is located on the East side of Burkhardt Road at a point 660 feet North of Lincoln Avenue and runs North to the Lloyd Expressway and continues North under Oak Grove Road to Morgan Avenue it then proceeds under Burkhardt Road to the west along the South side of the Norfolk Southern (NS) Railroad to the mouth of Stockfleth Ditch. The portion of this ditch is discussed under “the canal”. A large portion of Crawford Brandeis from the southern boundary of the Target Center north under the Lloyd Expressway, and then continuing North under Virginia Street and Oak Grove Road all the way to Morgan Avenue is now piped. A small part of the Crawford Brandeis Drain south of the Target Plaza was mowed four times on the same schedule as Bonnie View Extension.

In early May of 2021, it was discovered that a fiber contractor, Veritas Communications along with their engineer Zayo, serving as subcontractors for AT&T were installing fiber along the eastern side of Burkhardt Road. In numerous locations, this fiber installation involved boring that was conducted near and on top of the twin box culverts that comprise Crawford Brandeis Ditch. The installation of fiber, especially on the rapidly developing east side, continues to be very difficult for the Surveyor’s Office to keep up with. A vast majority of the contractors are unaware of the existence of legal drains, and some, even after being told they are encroaching, have told office staff that they will not stop working.

This effort by Zayo to install fiber along top of Crawford Brandeis was ordered to cease and was eventually moved to the west side of Burkhardt Road. As a result of this project, the Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office contracted Hydromax to use a robotic apparatus to inspect the entirety of the ditch from its beginning just south of the Target Pavilion to where it merges with Kelly Ditch. This inspection showed no significant damage to the box culverts and will also allow the Surveyor's Office to formulate future maintenance plans for the ditch. Some large and obstructive debris was removed during this effort. A sign for the Target complex was erected in November 2023 without the permission of the Drainage Board. The base of this sign was found to encroach into the right of entry of the drain. It was decided by the County Surveyor to allow the sign to stand with an application to affect being filed by the sign builder, noting that this sign would be allowed to stay but the sign would be in peril should any work need to be done on these culverts in the future.

It is recommended that these box culverts be inspected on a regular basis (every 10-15 years) going forward with cameras to ensure that the integrity of the boxes is maintained, and no large debris exists in the pipes.



## **THE CANAL**

Portions of the old Wabash Erie Canal along the south side of the Norfolk Southern Railroad that runs parallel to Morgan Avenue consists of Kelly (1.45 miles beginning at the Warrick County Line and proceeds west to where it intersects with Crawford Brandeis at Burkhardt Road) a portion of Crawford Brandeis (.29 miles from Burkhardt Road to of the intersection of Stockfleth) and Hirsch (0.65 miles beginning at the end of Crawford Brandeis and ending at Green River Road).

In 2013 mowing was done on the south bank (non-railroad side) of the drain. This mowing has continued and is done one to three times per year. It is recommended that the south side of these portions of drains be scheduled for late spring, mid-summer mowing and fall mowing during 2026<sup>2</sup>. In 2017 due to the appearance of Creeping Water Primrose the channel was sprayed along with a portion of Nurrenbern. This application was needed in 2023 and will continue to be applied as needed.



*Stock Picture of Creeping Water Primrose*



*Primrose in the Canal*

On a longer-term view, the portion of the canal between Stockfleth and Green River Road that is Hirsch Ditch has several large culverts that allow rail and vehicle access. Many of these culverts are old and need to be inspected and either replaced or removed. As rail access is removed, the culverts need to be permanently removed. This is the case where the rail service to the old Complete Lumber site has been discontinued. The County Surveyor now has contact with the railroad and will work with them soon to see if any of these pipes may be removed. The work being done by the City of Evansville is also going to require these pipes to be removed to help alleviate the East Side flooding situation. We will keep the Board updated on the situation as it progresses. This project will also involve the need to revisit the billboards that were allowed to be placed within

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<sup>2</sup> Mowing on those portions of Crawford Brandeis, Kelly, Hirsch and the Wabash Erie Canal that parallel the NS Railroad is limited to the south side of those drains due to limitations of equipment and the inability to access the north side of the drains due to the location of the railroad tracks.

the right of entry along Oak Grove Road. The design currently will affect locations so this is an issue that will have to be addressed in the future.

**Wabash Erie Canal** has a total length of 0.85 miles. Like the Canal this drain consists of the old Wabash Erie Canal on the south side of the NS Railroad that runs parallel to Morgan Avenue beginning at Green River Road to Stockwell Road and then runs through Wesselman Woods to Morgan Avenue. The general maintenance for that portion of the drain until it runs into Wesselman Woods should be maintained like the canal. Beginning in 2017 mowing occurred in the rip rap curve section just east of Stockwell Road. This continued in 2018 and will continue. In 2019 it was also recommended that this area be sprayed. On the West side of Stockwell, the mowing would be on the north side of the ditch as the canal flows under the tracks just east of Stockwell Road. For 2018 additional mowing footage was added for that portion west of Stockwell on the north side of the ditch until it enters Wesselman Woods (approximately 200'). The East Side Drainage Project being done by the City of Evansville will affect this drain from the intersection of the railroad on the West side of Stockwell and going East to the end of the J.H. Rudolph (Concrete Supply) property. This project is going to reopen the original channel of the Canal that has not been maintained since 2005 when the ditch was re-routed to the North. It will add about 600' of additional area of maintenance for 2026. According to the design, the amount of maintenance needed should be less than before with the type of materials and vegetation being proposed for this design. After construction is completed, we will know more about exactly what type of maintenance is going to be required.

*Examples of rip rap blockages and debris at various points along the channel*



*Blockage at North Pipe at Green River Rd*



*Area west of Stockwell additional mowing*



*Canal west of Green River Road*

Some fallen trees on that portion of the drain west of Stockwell Road are partially blocking the channel and will need to be cleared in the future. Some of the blockage is located on the drain within Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Removal of these blockages will be coordinated with personnel from Wesselman and IDNR.



*Blockages in stream within Stockwell Woods*

Also, some build-up of material is occurring under Morgan Avenue. There are some additional small blockages north of Morgan Avenue, but these are at a considerably lower grade than the channel on the South side of Morgan. This is due to the location of a waterline on the south side of Morgan Avenue that effectively sets the grade for this channel from Morgan Avenue to the south. In the future, it may be prudent to investigate the potential for extending the legal drain limits to where the drain flows into Pigeon Creek. Additional consideration should be given as to whether the waterline on the south side of Morgan Avenue should be lowered.



*Channel north of Morgan Avenue-not a part of the legal drain system*

Two large 96" steel storm water pipes were installed under the Norfolk Southern Railroad, just east of Stockwell Road in 2004. The more eastern of the two pipes had become silted in as shown below which affected about 25% of the capacity of the pipe. This material was removed by Hydromax in 2024 and along with the silt dipping project, the water flow is greatly increased and the amount of silt staying in the eastern pipe has been greatly decreased. By contract with the NS RR, Vanderburgh County is responsible for the maintenance of these structures. Continued efforts will be made to work with the NS on this project.



*Norfolk Southern Railroad Crossing over Wabash Erie Canal – April 2024*

**Harper Ditch** was added to the ESU-S½ system February 6, 2024. We also had the portion of Harper Ditch that is piped inspected in 2024. After receiving the inspection video and comments, we found a section of the pipe that had been damaged by a

fiberoptic telephone line installation. The damage is minor, but repairs will be necessary in the future. We have found the contractor responsible for the damage and will coordinate with them first to determine if further action by the Board may be necessary.



*Harper Ditch looking East of Eastland Shopping Complex*

**Stockfleth** is a south to north drain approximately 1/4 mile west of Burkhardt Road that begins on the north side of the Lloyd Expressway to the Hirsch Drain/Crawford-Brandeis Drain intersection at Morgan Avenue (the old Wabash Erie Canal). Work in 2021 consisted of spraying broadleaf weeds and brush, bottom sterilization and midsummer and fall mowing. A significant infestation of cattails has been previously reported in Stockfleth Drain north of Vogel Road, however increasing the mowing cycle has made this less of a problem. One permit was issued in 2022 to allow a pipe to discharge into the ditch for a new commercial development near Virginia and Metro Drive. In 2022, there was also an illegal crossing of the ditch by a utility contractor that has not been resolved. In 2024, we had an issue just north of Vogel Road of someone using Roundup along the west side of the ditch. A meeting was held with the landowner, and the problem has been resolved.

**Nurrenbern** is a south to north drain approximately 1/2 mile west of Warrick County Line that begins at Lincoln Avenue and Fuquay Road goes under the Lloyd Expressway and I-164 to Kelly Ditch (the old Wabash Erie Canal). In 2016 the channel was cleared at the pipes at Oak Grove Road.

This ditch is basically in good condition, and it is recommended that the current application of herbicides continue and mowing south of the Lloyd continue. For 2026, continued mowing north of the Lloyd Expressway to the Northwest corner of the Cross Lake Apartment Complex is recommended to be continued including a second mowing that was added in 2018. In 2018 additional mowing was added for the area from Oak

Grove Road north to where the ditch intersects Kelly ditch. A second mowing in late fall was instituted in 2019.



*Nurrenbern Ditch north of Virginia*



*Nurrenbern Ditch south of Virginia*

**Crawford Brandeis Extension** is one of two drains in the East Side Urban North area. The drain begins on the North side of Morgan Avenue about 1/4-mile West of Burkhardt Road proceeds under Old Boonville Highway at the Eagles Lodge and continuing north

under Lynch and Hirsch Roads and continuing north to Pigeon Creek. Maintenance in 2021 consisted of a broadleaf and brush spraying and a fall mowing from Morgan Avenue north to Old Boonville Highway and a midsummer and fall mow from Old Boonville Highway to the Northeast corner of the Evansville Basketball Academy parcel. In 2024, beavers were found to be in the ditch between Old Boonville Highway and Morgan Avenue that required removal of the animals along with three dams. We also had the contractor remove some sediment build-up just north of the bridge crossing Old Boonville Highway in 2026.

The bank on the west and north sides of the drain needs to be pulled back in an area south of Lynch Road to the south line of the Burkhardt Addition Subdivision. An obstacle to completing this work will be accessing the west bank of the stream with equipment. Previous conversations had been held with the landowner/owner of the bridge and he seemed amenable to allowing use of the bridge for small equipment. However, in 2017 when attempts were made to do this work, the property owner was uncomfortable with the legal language provided in the County's agreement. This issue has still not been resolved as of the end of 2025. We have also received numerous complaints regarding the condition of the basin that lies on the North side of Burkhardt Addition from the adjoining landowners in the subdivision. The following are two pictures of the area:



*Crawford Brandeis Extension – Burkhardt Addition Subdivision*



To the north in the area south of Hirsch Road a single heavy mowing/small tree clearing was done in 2016 from Hirsch Road south approximately 2100' on both sides of the top of the channel. An application to affect was granted to CenterPoint Energy in 2023 to allow them to route a gas line under the intersection with Boesche Drain. They also applied for another in 2024 to locate a power pole to raise line heights along Old Boonville Highway.

**Boesche Ditch** begins west of the intersection of Burkhardt Road and Hirsch Road and proceeds East under Burkhardt Road, I-69, Old Boonville Highway, and to the Warrick/Vanderburgh County Line. During 2016 this drain, along with Crawford Brandeis Extension, was sprayed for broadleaf and brush. In 2016 this drain was selective dipped from Burkhardt to I-69. An application to affect was granted to CenterPoint Energy in 2023 to allow them to route a gas line under the intersection with Crawford-Brandeis Ditch. An application to affect was also granted to CenterPoint Energy to allow them to open-cut a portion of Boesche Ditch just east of I-69. This project was completed in the spring of 2025. While we do not normally allow any open cuts on a regulated drain, extenuating circumstances make this necessary for this pipe extension. Per CenterPoint, they will take care to ensure the integrity of the drain and maintain the water flow while performing their work. The timeframe is very short for this, and the drain will be returned to normal conditions upon completion. The County Surveyor's Office will also be doing daily inspections until completion. Boesche Ditch needs silt dipping in numerous areas of silt deposits are now present in the channel due to past flooding. It is recommended that this be addressed in 2026.

## Multicounty Drainage

**Weinshiemer/Williams Ditch** this drain is known in Vanderburgh County as Weinshiemer but goes by the name of Howard Williams in Warrick County. The drain begins at Lincoln Avenue and proceeds north along the Vanderburgh/Warrick County line. Just south of the I-69 interchange with the Lloyd Expressway the drain flows under I-69 to the Northeast to the Deaconess Hospital complex and then under the Lloyd Expressway, all in Warrick County. The drain then proceeds to the north and northeast to Stevenson. Currently the county assesses 240.87 acres of watershed, all within the city limits of Evansville. Monies that are collected are for any work that may be billed by Warrick County as they maintain this ditch.

**Upper Pigeon Creek:** Taxing continues in this area, and, like Weinshiemer Ditch in Warrick County, payments are made to Gibson County based upon work performed.

## Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission (PCWDC)

In 2024, the Indiana legislature passed IC 14-30.5, which allowed the creation of Watershed Development Commissions. Vanderburgh County along with Warrick and Gibson Counties held meetings to establish the Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission. While Warrick and Gibson Counties chose not to participate in the initial submissions and formation of this Commission, Vanderburgh County did formally apply to the Indiana NRC and DNR to establish said commission. After several months and additional hearings, the decision was made by the NRC to allow the formation of said Pigeon Creek Watershed Development Commission in September 2024. While the Center Township and East Side Urban Drains fall within the watershed of Pigeon Creek, it was decided by the Commission in December 2024 that all regulated drains that fall within the jurisdiction of PCWDC would remain with the Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office. These ditches and parcels were separated as of December 2024.

## Major Issues

There are two major issues affecting Vanderburgh County Drains. The first is the continued attempts to encroach on the Right of Entry of the legal drains. The Right of Entry, though sometimes erroneously referred to as the Drainage Easement or Drainage Right-of-Way is defined Indiana Code 36-9-27-33, a portion of which is listed below:

Sec. 33. (a) The county surveyor, the board, or an authorized representative of the surveyor or the board acting under this chapter has the right of entry over and upon land lying within seventy-five (75) feet of any regulated drain. The seventy-five (75) foot limit shall be measured at right angles to:

- (1) the center line of any tiled drain; and
- (2) the top edge of each bank of an open drain; as determined by the surveyor.

(b) Spoil bank spreading resulting from the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of an open drain may extend beyond the seventy-five (75) foot right-of-way if:

- (1) the county surveyor finds that the extension is necessary; and
- (2) the extension has been provided for in the engineer's report on the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.
- (c) All persons exercising the right given by this section shall, to the extent possible, use due care to avoid damage to crops, fences, buildings, and other structures outside of the right-of-way, and to crops and approved structures inside the right-of-way. The county surveyor shall give oral or written notice of the entry on the land to the property owner of record, and in the case of a municipality, to the executive of that municipality. The notice must state the purpose for the entry.
- (d) The owners of land over which the right-of-way runs may use the land in any manner consistent with this chapter and the proper operation of the drain. Permanent structures may not be placed on any right-of-way without the written consent of the board. Temporary structures may be placed upon or over the right-of-way without the written consent of the board, but shall be removed immediately by the owner when so ordered by the board or by the county surveyor. Crops grown on a right-of-way are at the risk of the owner, and, if necessary in the reconstruction or maintenance of the drain, may be damaged without liability on the part of the surveyor, the board, or their representatives. Trees, shrubs, and woody vegetation may not be planted in the right-of-way without the written consent of the board, and trees and shrubs may be removed by the surveyor if necessary to the proper operation or maintenance of the drain.
- (e) This subsection applies to new regulated drains established after September 1, 1984, and to urban drains. Except as provided in subsection (f), the board may reduce the seventy-five (75) foot right-of-way requirement of subsections (a) and (b) to any distance of not less than:
  - (1) twenty-five (25) feet from the top of each bank of an open ditch; and
  - (2) fifteen (15) feet from the center line of any tiled drain; as measured at right angles.

The encroachment issue is especially a problem on the east side where poor due diligence by some developers has caused them to overlook the Right of Entry for the Crawford Brandeis drain and lay out their development into this area. The problem has been exacerbated in recent years with the development of increasing cell service and the desire by cell companies to use the open space on the east side of Burkhardt Road, that is the Right of Entry for the piped Crawford Brandeis drain.



*Crawford Brandeis Right of Entry / Green Space East of Burkhardt Road*



*Green Space between Burkhardt Road and businesses to the east is the Right of Entry for Crawford Brandeis pipe drain*

The second issue is the lack of utilities in obtaining proper crossing authority and their desire to perform minimum coverage for utilities that go under drains. This problem has been highlighted by Evansville Water and Sewer with the desire to place gravity sewers too close to recommended cover. An ordinance has been developed by the previous Vanderburgh County Surveyor, Jeff Mueller. The intent of the Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office going forward is to continue the work of Mr. Mueller and bring this ordinance to the Vanderburgh Count Drainage Board for approval. This ordinance would require an application for utilities to cross any regulated drain and will call for a minimum of three feet of cover for buried utilities.

# Account Balances from the 2026 Report

## Current Balance, Past Costs & Billing Recommendations - Vanderburgh County Regulated Drains

Ditch Name	Account Balance 12/31/2025	Projected Balance After		2026 Estimated Costs	4 YEAR COST AVERAGE	4 YEAR COST TOTAL	2025 Contractual Costs	2024 Contractual Costs	2023 Contractual Costs	2022 Contractual Costs
		2026 Contractuals Deducted	2026 Contractuals							
Aiken	\$ 54,131.96	\$ 50,131.96	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,341.41	\$ 13,365.65	\$ 3,172.32	\$ 3,425.57	\$ 3,360.84	\$ 3,406.92	
Eagle Slough	\$ 88,172.17	\$ 80,672.17	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,158.87	\$ 20,635.48	\$ 2,553.40	\$ 5,527.36	\$ 5,527.36	\$ 7,027.36	
Keil	\$ 49,712.55	\$ 47,962.55	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,253.52	\$ 5,014.06	\$ 1,483.89	\$ 1,634.97	\$ 1,012.40	\$ 882.80	
Kolb	\$ 29,078.70	\$ 21,828.70	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 6,423.04	\$ 25,692.17	\$ 6,180.82	\$ 7,230.58	\$ 6,845.69	\$ 5,435.08	
Sonntag Stevens	\$ 74,560.05	\$ 24,560.05	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 15,796.11	\$ 63,184.44	\$ 16,759.53	\$ 16,530.61	\$ 16,458.95	\$ 13,435.35	
East Side Urban*	\$ 511,841.94	\$ 451,841.94	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 68,641.29	\$ 274,565.17	\$ 54,366.89	\$ 144,680.10	\$ 38,054.75	\$ 37,463.43	
Harper	\$ 17,123.35	\$ 9,323.35	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 6,549.74	\$ 26,198.94	\$ 5,457.50	\$ 11,149.94	\$ 4,783.75	\$ 4,807.75	
Henry	\$ 7,283.75	\$ 3,783.75	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,870.29	\$ 11,481.15	\$ 3,081.51	\$ 3,213.00	\$ 2,830.56	\$ 2,356.08	
Baehl	\$ 1,215.51	\$ 113.11	\$ 1,102.40	\$ 2,326.80	\$ 9,307.20	\$ 1,102.40	\$ 1,102.40	\$ 1,102.40	\$ 6,000.00	
Bair's Creek	\$ 10,467.88	\$ 5,467.88	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,011.53	\$ 24,046.12	\$ 11,261.53	\$ 4,261.53	\$ 4,261.53	\$ 4,261.53	
Buente Upper Big Creek	\$ 3,552.64	\$ (486.36)	\$ 4,039.00	\$ 4,292.50	\$ 17,170.00	\$ 4,039.00	\$ 5,053.00	\$ 4,039.00	\$ 4,039.00	
Hoefling	\$ 2,590.42	\$ 1,990.42	\$ 600.00	\$ 557.10	\$ 2,228.40	\$ 557.10	\$ 557.10	\$ 557.10	\$ 557.10	
Kneer	\$ 800.67	\$ 300.67	\$ 500.00	\$ 410.40	\$ 1,641.60	\$ 410.40	\$ 410.40	\$ 410.40	\$ 410.40	
Maasberg	\$ 677.16	\$ 377.16	\$ 300.00	\$ 220.60	\$ 882.40	\$ 220.60	\$ 220.60	\$ 220.60	\$ 220.60	
Maidlow	\$ 24,218.18	\$ 18,718.18	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,630.55	\$ 14,522.21	\$ 3,174.07	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,174.07	\$ 3,174.07	
Pond Flat Main	\$ 9,668.13	\$ 3,168.13	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 12,378.27	\$ 49,513.09	\$ 5,677.80	\$ 19,907.49	\$ 5,527.80	\$ 18,400.00	
Lateral A	\$ 11,771.84	\$ 10,271.84	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 849.76	\$ 3,399.04	\$ 955.98	\$ 955.98	\$ 743.54	\$ 743.54	
Lateral B	\$ 3,651.55	\$ 2,651.55	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 447.52	\$ 1,790.08	\$ 503.46	\$ 503.46	\$ 391.58	\$ 391.58	
Lateral D	\$ 5,778.32	\$ 4,578.32	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,257.64	\$ 5,030.56	\$ 2,324.22	\$ 1,324.22	\$ 741.06	\$ 641.06	
Rexing	\$ 1,533.03	\$ (566.97)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 3,518.99	\$ 14,075.96	\$ 2,051.52	\$ 7,921.40	\$ 2,051.52	\$ 2,051.52	
Singer	\$ 3,636.01	\$ 3,186.01	\$ 450.00	\$ 367.50	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50	\$ 367.50	
Wallenmeyer	\$ 657.59	\$ (842.41)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,253.25	\$ 5,013.00	\$ 1,253.25	\$ 1,253.25	\$ 1,253.25	\$ 1,253.25	
Barnett	\$ 3,514.34	\$ 2,914.34	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,010.32	\$ 4,041.29	\$ 869.50	\$ 484.57	\$ 2,269.32	\$ 417.90	
Cypress Dale Maddox	\$ 6,591.42	\$ 5,091.42	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,868.79	\$ 11,475.17	\$ 2,471.97	\$ 1,387.34	\$ 6,421.51	\$ 1,194.35	
Edmond	\$ 6,464.18	\$ 5,464.18	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,020.46	\$ 4,081.85	\$ 1,533.52	\$ 905.25	\$ 873.33	\$ 769.75	
Helfrich Happe	\$ (2,076.53)	\$ (2,876.53)	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,984.06	\$ 7,936.25	\$ 1,523.76	\$ 5,079.20	\$ 698.39	\$ 634.90	
Kamp	\$ (1,570.96)	\$ 160.80	\$ -	\$ 1,743.75	\$ 6,975.00	\$ 1,339.20	\$ 4,464.00	\$ 613.80	\$ 558.00	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 925,045.85	\$ 749,786.21	\$ 176,991.40	\$ 156,184.07	\$ 624,736.28	\$ 134,692.64	\$ 254,550.82	\$ 114,592.00	\$ 120,900.82	
Schlensker	\$ 794.79									
Upper Pigeon Creek	\$ 9,164.88									
Weinsheimer	\$ 18,277.17									

## Billing Rates – Approved 01/27/2026 Vanderburgh County Drainage Board

VANDERBURGH COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE  
2025 DITCH ASSESSMENT SUMMARY  
2025 RATES PAYABLE 2026

	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DITCH NAME	2026 ASSESSMENT	ACREAGE OR PERCENTAGE	2026 RATE
NOT BILLING	234-006	AIKEN*	\$0.00 \$0.00	361.580 R 654.910 U	\$0.00 \$0.00
	234-007	BAEHL	\$1,600.00	756.270	\$2.12
	234-008	BARNETT	\$1,200.00	99.89581 %	\$12.01
	234-009	BARR'S CREEK	\$8,000.00	6755.770	\$1.25
	234-010	BUENTE UPPER BIG CREEK	\$4,800.00	2482.380	\$2.00
	234-012	CYPRESS DALE MADDOX	\$2,500.00	100.00 %	\$25.00
NOT BILLING	234-013	EAGLE SLOUGH***	\$0.00 \$0.00	3810.210 R 3398.700 U	\$0.00 \$0.00
NOT BILLING	234-015	EASTSIDE URBAN*	\$0.00 \$0.00	769.580 R 4806.570 U	\$0.00 \$0.00
	234-016	EDMOND	\$2,000.00	99.17799 %	\$20.17
	234-017	HARPER**	\$7,163.00	318.370 U	\$22.50
	234-018	HELFRICH-HAPPE	\$1,400.00	99.92503 %	\$14.01
	234-019	HENRY	\$860.00	551.610	\$1.56
	234-020	HOEFLING	\$750.00	315.530	\$2.38
	234-021	KAMP	\$1,800.00	100.01461 %	\$18.00
NOT BILLING	234-022	KEIL*	\$0.00 \$0.00	186.850 R 233.360 U	\$0.00 \$0.00
	234-024	KNEER	\$400.00	143.310	\$2.79
	234-025	KOLB*	\$517.00 \$9,707.00	344.940 R 431.430 U	\$1.50 \$22.50
	234-027	MAASBERG	\$250.00	91.620	\$2.73
	234-028	MAIDLAW	\$6,500.00	4634.350	\$1.50
	234-029	POND FLAT MAIN	\$13,500.00	9587.580	\$2.00
	234-030	POND FLAT LAT. A	\$750.00	930.170	\$0.81
	234-031	POND FLAT LAT. B	\$500.00	994.770	\$0.50
	234-033	POND FLAT LAT. D	\$630.00	654.760	\$0.96
	234-035	REXING CREEK****	\$3,000.00	1860.210	\$2.00
	234-037	SINGER	\$800.00	416.440	\$1.92
NOT BILLING	234-038	SONNTAG-STEVENSON*	\$0.00 \$0.00	46.570 R 931.700 U	\$0.00 \$0.00
	234-039	UPPER PIGEON CREEK	\$340.00	1029.490	\$0.33
	234-040	WALLENMEYER	\$1,450.00	690.340	\$2.10
	234-042	WEINSHEIMER	\$373.00	240.870	\$1.55
	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DITCH NAME	2026 ASSESSMENT	ACREAGE OR PERCENTAGE	2026 RATE

\*ESTABLISHED RATES ON AIKEN, EASTSIDE URBAN, HARPER, KEIL, KOLB, & SONNTAG-STEVENSON: R = \$1.50 U = \$22.50

\*\*HARPER WATERSHED IS COMPLETELY WITHIN CITY LIMITS, URBAN RATE = \$22.50

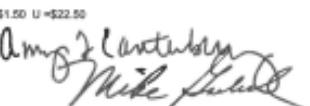
\*\*\*EAGLE SLOUGH RURAL RATE = \$0.60 URBAN RATE = \$9.00 (ESTABLISHED 1995)

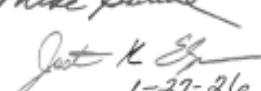
\*\*\*\*POND FLAT LATS "C" & "E" and RUSHER COMBINED IN 1999 AS REXING CREEK

NOTE: Acreages may be updated after billings are calculated. Submitted to DB 01/27/2026.



Linda Freeman, Vanderburgh County Surveyor

  
Amy J. Hartman  
Date 01/27/2026

  
Mike Schell  
1-27-26