Armstrong Park, which is located in a mixed residential and commercial area along Beck Lane and South Ninth Street, offers recreational opportunities such as fishing, baseball, and open green space. The 26-acre park also is located near Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, and it is a favorite gathering spot in the community.

During and after wet weather, a detention basin in the park serves as a temporary storage area for stormwater that runs off of rooftops, streets and yards in the surrounding neighborhood. Unfortunately, the stormwater that enters the basin can become polluted with oil from cars, trash and other pollutants. These pollutants can lower the water quality in the detention basin, as well as in Durkees Run and the Wabash River. As a result, the waterways can become an unhealthy environment for humans and aquatic life.

To protect local streams and rivers, the City of Lafayette has completed a preliminary study and identified alternatives that will improve the quality of stormwater flowing into the Armstrong Park detention basin. After consideration of the alternatives the city determined that a combination of enhanced detention and infiltration practices located upstream of the park may be most effective in removing pollutants.

The proposed stormwater quality project will include improvements to an existing detention area consisting of native plantings and coordination with land owners for the development of rain gardens in the existing neighborhoods. The combination of filtering and infiltration practices will remove pollutants upstream of the Armstrong Park.

Armstrong Park regional detention basin also will be adapted to improve stormwater quality. The project is part of the City’s approved stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Storm Water Quality Management Plan.