

~ STORMWATER ~

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Stormwater?

Isn't it great how nice and clean cars, parking lots, driveways and even your house look after a good rainfall? All the dirt, trash and grease from these places, that does not soak into the ground, is carried away to the storm drain system. Storm drain systems often flow directly to our lakes and rivers without treatment.



What is a storm drain?



The grate openings in the street that collect water from rain and melting snow to minimize street flooding. Rainwater often carries street debris, trash, leaves, fertilizer, pesticides, grass clippings, pet waste, paints, antifreeze, used motor oil and bare soils that end up in the storm drains when people dispose of them improperly.

Where does it come from?

Where does it go?

Whenever it rains or when snow melts, the water runs off from our homes, yards, businesses and schools. Everything that we do outdoors has an affect on the water bodies around us. As water flows downhill it collects different pollutants that are left in its path. It travels to the nearest storm drain where it is carried to the nearest lake, pond, river or stream. Many times these water bodies are places that we use for swimming, fishing and other recreation.



Stormwater Pollution is a serious problem and one of the best solutions is to simply have everyone **“Do Their Part”**.

Pollution Prevention, What you can do:

- Never dump anything onto the street, into a gutter or storm drain
- Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost
- Wash your vehicles in a car wash or on your lawn, not you driveway
- Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks on your vehicles
- Compost yard clippings
- Plant a rain garden
- Set up a rain barrel
- Eliminate or reduce your use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- If you live along a shoreline, plant a vegetated buffer of native plants
- Landscape and install walkways, driveways, and drainage to let water seep into the ground instead of running off your property
- Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash
- Bring leftover toxic material to a waste collection facility: **McLeod Household Hazardous Waste 320-234-7166**
- **Report illegal dumping: 320-234-5682**



*Do your part
keep water at heart*