

Phase II Stormwater Program Spring 2016

Stormwater runoff is rain water that flows over land into drainage systems and ultimately ends up in our waterways. Hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, streets, and parking lots prevent rain water from soaking into the ground.

Stormwater pollution is the result of human activities that occur on land. Pollution like pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings, litter, and motor oil are carried by stormwater runoff into local waterways. Polluted runoff harms fish, plants, wildlife, and humans. Fortunately, by taking simple precautions we can help protect our waterways, health, and environment.

Pet Waste contains bacteria that can make humans sick and close waterways to swimming and fishing.

- Always remember to dispose of pet waste in a closed trash can.

Vehicle & Pressure Washing Soaps destroy natural oils on fish that protect them from harmful bacteria and help them move through the water.

- Wash your car on the grass so the soapy water will be cleaned naturally by the soil.

Vehicle / Boat Fluids are toxic in water and harm fish, other wildlife, and waterways.

- Recycle vehicle batteries, motor oil, and other fluids at an auto parts store or a suitable collection facility.
- Keep vehicles and boats maintained.
- Clean up any leaks or spills immediately.

Yard Waste (pine straw, leaves, and grass clippings) clog storm drains, which can cause flooding.

- Don't blow yard waste into a street, storm drain, or ditch.
- Leave grass clippings in the yard to conserve moisture and act as a natural fertilizer.
- Sweep up driveway debris instead of hosing down the driveway.

Fertilizers contain nutrients that cause algae to grow more rapidly in water, which uses up oxygen and kills fish and other aquatic life. This is called creating a "dead zone" in waterbodies.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- Keep fertilizer off pavement; don't fertilize before rain.

