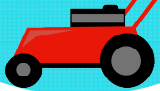


STORMWATER

Management Practices

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.



Landscaping

Rain Barrels - Collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers and use water on lawn or garden areas.

Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales - Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.

Vegetated Filter Strips - Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.

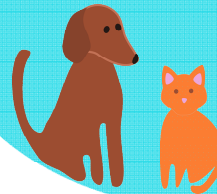


Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.

Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.



Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.



Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. If possible, use organic mulch or safer pest control methods.

Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler to prevent runoff.

Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.

Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping or construction projects.

Tip: Repair leaks and dispose of used oil, auto fluids, and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

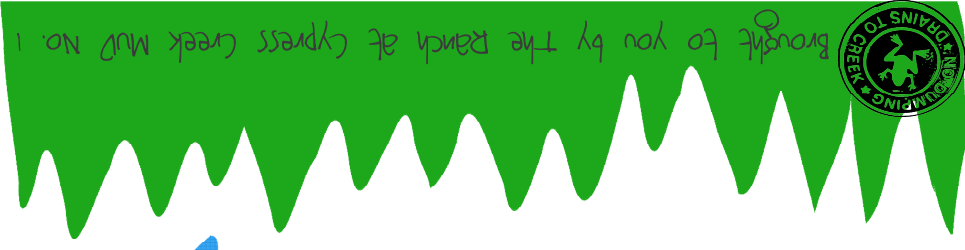
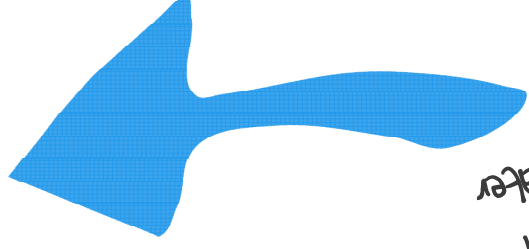
Tip: Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its water.

STORMWATER Management Practices

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, or river. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Look inside for tips on reducing polluted stormwater runoff!



EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

Polluted stormwater runoff has many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life including fish, turtles, and birds.

Household hazardous waste s like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. Dead algae sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

Sediment can cloud the water, making it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow.

Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

