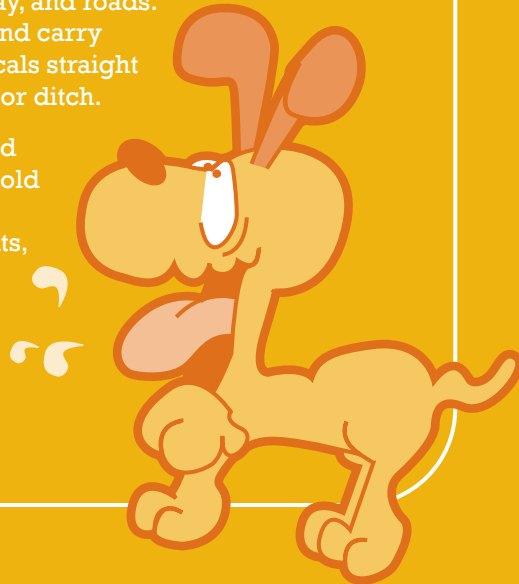


GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and properly dispose of it. The best method is flushing it, so it can be properly treated. Leaving it on the ground increases the risk of harmful bacteria and nutrients washing into the nearest storm drain, which flows to our local waterways that are used for boating, skiing, and swimming.
- Maintain your car so it will not leak oil, antifreeze, gasoline or other fluids. These pollutants easily move with rainwater or snowmelt to the nearest storm drain, and flow directly to the closest river or stream.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly. Any spills on pavement or excess material in your yard washes into storm drains or ditches.
- Grass clippings and mulched leaves are great natural fertilizer that can give your yard a boost of nutrients. Leaves and grass clippings should never be raked or dumped into storm drains, street gutters or ditches. They decay in the water, which reduces the oxygen available to fish and wildlife when the water enters the nearest river or stream.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn and garden. If you do water, make sure you are only watering the lawn, not the nearby sidewalks, driveway, and roads. Excess water can run off and carry fertilizer and other chemicals straight to the nearest storm drain or ditch.
- Be sure to properly use and dispose of all your household hazardous waste (used motor oil, cleaners, solvents, paints, etc.). Contact your county Solid Waste Management District for more information.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON STORM DRAINS AND DITCHES:

Maumee RAP (Partners for Clean Streams)	(419)874-0727
Lucas County Solid Waste Management District	(419)213-2230
Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District	(419)893-1966
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Emergency Spills)	(800)282-9378
Toledo/Lucas County Health Department	(419)213-4100
Wood County Health Department	(419)352-8402
Wood County Solid Waste Management District	(419)354-9297
Wood Soil and Water Conservation District	(419)354-5517

Add up all the land that drains into the same waterway, and you have a watershed. Understanding how we impact our watershed is the first step toward protecting water quality.

HOW DO POLLUTANTS GET INTO THE RIVER SYSTEM? UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS TOO EASY!

Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and sprinklers moves over land to the nearest storm drain, ditch or creek. Pollutants “hitch a ride” on this water that is running off. From there, the polluted water enters area waterways like Swan Creek, Ottawa River, and the Maumee River, unfiltered and untreated. This runoff can cause a decline in water quality, harming the creatures living in and around the waterway. Contamination of surface and ground water also places our drinking water supplies at risk.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

TAKE ACTION! YOU CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY. IT'S EASY. . .

- Pick a few of the simple steps recommended in this brochure. Try them for a few months. Remember, a few simple changes can make a big difference.
- Share this tip card with a friend or neighbor.
- Get involved in local environmental activities as a member or a volunteer. The Maumee RAP has been working to improve and protect our area waterways for over 20 years. To learn how you can support their efforts or get involved, visit PartnersForCleanStreams.org

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among Partners for Clean Streams (now supporting the Maumee RAP) and the following: Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419-241-9155)

Lucas County (419-213-4500)
 City of Oregon (419-698-7047)
 Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
 Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
 Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)
 Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
 Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
 Township of Washington (419-726-6621)
 Ohio Environmental Education Fund
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources



City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
 Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
 Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
 Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
 Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
 Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
 Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
 Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
 United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Keep for future reference or recycle.

Partners for Clean Streams | P.O. Box 203 | Perrysburg, Ohio 43552 | Phone: 419-874-0727 | PartnersForCleanStreams.org

TIP CARD NO. 6



keep storm drains for rainwater only. . .



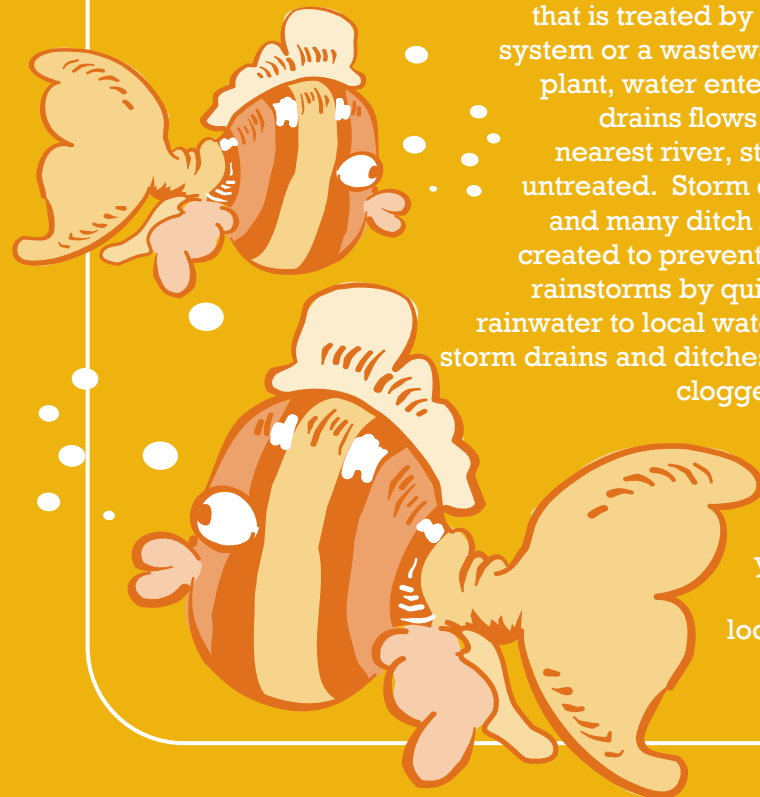
Find out how the proper use and protection of your storm drain or ditch can protect your property and our local waterways.

WOULD YOU THROW OIL, ANTIFREEZE, PAINT, GRASS CLIPPINGS OR PET WASTE INTO YOUR LOCAL STREAM OR DITCH?

A FEW CHANGES IN YOUR USE OF STORM DRAINS AND DITCHES CAN SAVE YOU MONEY, WHILE PROTECTING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS. . .

We all have waterfront property! Anything – trash, leaves, grass, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, antifreeze, pet wastes, etc. – that is carried by rainfall, snowmelt or sprinklers as it flows over our streets and yards ends up in our local waterways and ultimately Lake Erie.

Unlike the wastewater from your home that is treated by either a septic system or a wastewater treatment plant, water entering the storm drains flows directly to the nearest river, stream or ditch, untreated. Storm drain systems, and many ditch systems, were created to prevent flooding after rainstorms by quickly diverting rainwater to local waterways. When storm drains and ditches are misused, clogged or polluted, they can increase flooding, damage your property, and harm our local waterways.



LET'S BUILD SOMETHING

Construction, and other earth disturbing activities, contribute large quantities of soil (or sediment) to streams. They are carried there through storm drains and ditches. The accumulation of sediment in our rivers, streams, and ditches reduces their capacity, increases flooding, and smothers aquatic spawning areas.

- Don't disturb any more ground than necessary. The best way to save money and soil is to keep the soil covered! You should leave a border of grass around any section of soil that you are exposing, such as the construction of a garage or addition. This border provides cover and helps prevent soil (or sediment) from running off site by slowing down any rain or snowmelt, allowing the sediment to be deposited on site and not in the storm drain or the ditch.
- If your project is adjacent to a road, stream or ditch use a barrier structure (i.e. silt fencing) to keep the sediment from getting into the storm drains or waterway. Keep vehicles on paved or stone surfaces to prevent tracking soil off site.
- Immediately seed, sod or mulch after all ground disturbances are completed, or if ground disturbances will be temporarily stopped for 21 days or more. Sediment negatively impacts your wallet by causing flood damage and decreasing property values. It negatively impacts water quality by degrading the habitat of aquatic organisms and fish, and promoting the growth of weeds and algae. For more information on soil erosion controls for your home project, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

GET INVOLVED

- Participate in your local Storm Drain Stenciling Campaign. Any type of group – school, scout, church, civic, neighborhood, etc. – can get together and stencil storm drains with the message “Drains are for Rain, Flows to Waterway.” This message and coordinating images help inform people about how storm drains work and how easily their misuse can harm our local waterways. Contact the Maumee RAP or your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.
- Report any dumping into storm drains to your local county Health Department. In emergency situations, contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Emergency spill number at (800)282-9378. Try to call at the time you see someone dumping.
- Get involved in local environmental activities as a member or a volunteer. You can do your part to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations. Local lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks can remain safe for drinking water and accessible for recreational activities like swimming, boating, canoeing, and fishing.



Some facts and information from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Huron River Watershed Council.