Storm Water Pollution

State and local governments, volunteer groups, and ordinary people are working to keep our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands clean.

You Can help!

• Most water pollution is caused by litter tossed out of vehicles or from uncovered truck loads; oil, paint, or chemicals poured down stormdrains; improper disposal of pet waste and poorly maintained septic tanks; or over-fertilizing of lawns and gardens.  
• As it flows, storm water collects and transports litter, soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil, detergents, and other pollutants.  
• Storm water runoff drains directly into creeks, streams and rivers without receiving treatment at a wastewater treatment plant.  
• Storm water pollution affects water quality and the environment.  
• Storm water pollution reduces how much we can use streams, rivers and lakes for fishing, swimming and drinking water.

Day-to-day activities are major causes of water pollution.

Parking lots, lawns, and driveways are primary sources of water pollution.

Rain or melting snow washes pollution into waterways.

Untreated runoff pollutes waterways.

Simple Steps You Can Take:

• Carry a litter bag in your car and dispose of litter properly  
• Cover truck loads securely  
• Dispose of used oil and household chemicals safely  
• Pick up pet waste; maintain septic tanks  
• Reduce soil erosion by replanting or mulching  
• Follow fertilizer directions

#StormWater