



► **What is storm water and why do we need to manage it?**

Federal and State laws regulating water quality and the management of stormwater necessitate that the City of Massillon re-evaluate the way it manages the water that runs off impervious surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, or rooftops.



Stormwater runoff carries pollutants directly to the Tuscarawas River and creeks and has the potential to create drainage and flooding problems throughout the city.

Storm Water *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF MASSILLON

REDUCE the amount of materials you use, which reduces the amount of waste you create.

REUSE materials when possible.

RECYCLE as much as possible



Household wastes and the storm drains?

Pollutants carried in our storm water are harming the water quality in our lakes and streams. Each year people pour hazardous chemicals such as pesticides, paints, detergents, antifreeze, and used motor oil down the storm drains. Street litter, such as cigarette butts, animal feces, leaves, grass clippings, and other wastes, are also dumped or washed into the drains. When it rains, these pollutants flow directly into the nearest pond or stream, and then to our very own Tuscarawas River!



Part of this storm water pollution problem is linked to the misconception citizens have about the water that enters storm drains. Many believe that the storm water is treated for pollutants the same way that household sewage is treated. **The fact is:** water that goes down the storm drain flows directly to the nearest waterway, and not to a waste water treatment plant facility.

Small amounts of toxic chemicals such as antifreeze, motor oil, pesticides, and household cleansers, can have devastating effects on aquatic populations. The fish, frogs, salamanders, crayfish, and dragonflies, are depending on us to care enough about their existence to protect their habitat. It has been estimated that one pint of oil can cause a slick about the size of two football fields! The surface of the water is a vital biological habitat and serves as a nursery for developing eggs and larvae of fish and other aquatic organisms.

You can help to inform your neighbors about water pollution problems and at the same time, suggest how they can improve their environmental habits. Your actions may prevent someone else from dumping wastes down the drain.

Steer Clear of Pollutants...." Don't Drip and Drive"

When your car leaks oil and other fluids, it is often a sign of a larger problem. If you ignore leaks, they can lead to major engine damage and a more expensive repair bill. Fixing vehicle leaks is also good for the environment. When it rains, storm water runoff carries petroleum products to ponds or streams, and rivers. Oil and other automotive fluids harm fish and wildlife and their habitats by fouling the waters and making them uninhabitable for all species, including humans. Check your car for leaks at home. If you find a leak, fix it right away. If your car is leaking onto your driveway at home, the oil will end up in puddles where your children and pets play, and have harmful, toxic effects. Clean up driveway spills by soaking up the oil with kitty litter, and then sweeping it up and put it into the trash.

