

## Protect our Storm Drains

- Storm drains empty rainwater and runoff directly into our groundwater, lakes or rivers. Unlike the water from your household drains, stormwater does not pass through a water treatment plant.
- Tips to eliminate polluted runoff in storm drains:
  - Use fertilizers and pesticides only as necessary for your yard size.
  - Keep grass clipping, trash and dirt of the streets and out of the gutters.
  - Don't overwater your lawn, consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
  - Dispose of household hazardous wastes at appropriate recycling facilities.

## Pet Waste

Pick-up your pet waste in a plastic bag or container in your yard, at the dog park, and while walking your pet.

Dispose of pet waste properly by bagging and placing into trash.



## Auto Care

- Wash your vehicle at commercial car washes that treat or recycle wastewater.
- If you do wash your vehicle at home, wash it on an unpaved surface, like your lawn, so the water infiltrates into the ground instead of making its way into the street or storm drain.
- Choose environmentally friendly soaps and cleaners labeled "non-toxic", "biodegradable" or "Phosphate-free."
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

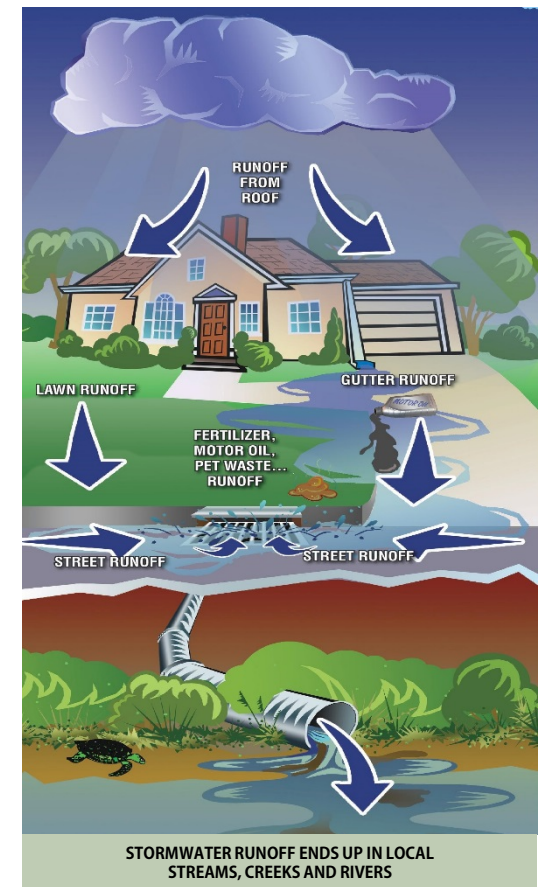


## Around the Neighborhood

- Educate neighbors and children. Share the importance of adopting stormwater pollution prevention practices with your neighbor and children..
- Report pollution. It is illegal to dump chemicals or other materials in the storm drain. If you notice illegal dumping, or see, hear about or even suspect activity that you believe is against the law and placing people's health or natural resources at risk, contact the Village of Cherry Valley at (815) 332-3441.



# STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION



Easy ways you can help to prevent water pollution

**Stormwater** is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground and eventually runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soils, and through sloped lawns while picking up a variety of materials on its way.



### Why is stormwater a problem?

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

### How is the Storm Sewer Different than Sanitary Sewer?

- The storm sewer system leads directly to our local creeks, rivers and lakes. Since stormwater typically originates from rainfall, it is not treated before it is released back into the environment.
- The sanitary system leads directly to a wastewater treatment plant where sewage passes through physical and biological treatment and undergoes a disinfection process before the treated water is released into local waterways.



## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION:

### General Household



Purchase biodegradable, nontoxic, or recycled products when possible.

Sweep up debris instead of hosing off or pressure washing your driveway.

Not only is the sediment harmful, but there can also be residue from vehicles on the driveway.



Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.

### Paint & Solvents



Clean water-based paints from rollers, pans and brushes in sinks that go into the sanitary sewer system. Use paint thinner to remove oil-based paint from brushes and rollers but do not rinse down sinks or drains