

YOUR ROLE IN THE WATER QUALITY PICTURE

Many people think the greatest threats to our rivers are from industry or wastewater treatment plants. Fortunately, the Clean Water Act has been successful in reducing these sources of pollution.

We, as members of our community, are now important actors in reclaiming and preserving our streams for wildlife, recreation, drinking water, quality of life and as a legacy for our children.

How do our behaviors influence water quality? Storm drains (storm sewers) on streets and in parking lots do not end at a wastewater treatment plant, but at the closest river or stream. They carry everything the rain has picked up along its path, including litter, chemicals and excess nutrients. You can actually see the results of your efforts to remove these pollutants as they move from yard to street to storm drain to river.



FSWCD photo

Please look through this brochure for ways we can work together to **save our streams one home at a time.**

GETTING INVOLVED

If you would like to do more to protect your local stream, think about joining a watershed group, getting involved with a storm drain marking project or citizen stream quality monitoring. Call Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for more information: **(614) 486-9613.**

REPORTING PROBLEMS

If you see someone putting anything down a storm drain or directly into a stream or river, call Nail-a-Dumper: **(614) 871-5322,** or visit www.nailadumper.com.

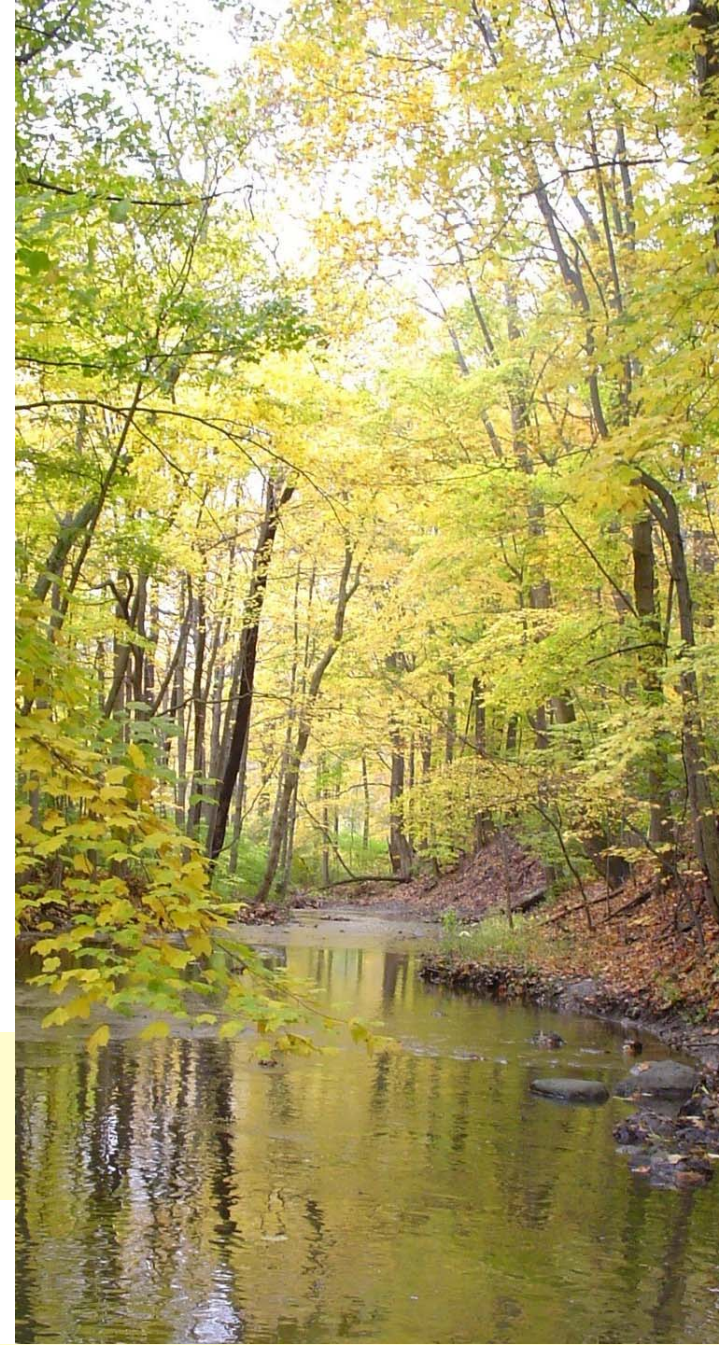
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ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN
Saving our streams
one home at a time

WHAT WE CAN DO...

...In the Yard

Plant grass or groundcover in areas of bare soil. Rain can carry large amounts of soil to a storm drain or stream even on gentle slopes. Eroded soil is the major pollutant in Ohio's rivers.



Outlet from storm drain showing soil in run-off

FSWCD photograph

Remove yard waste and leaves from street gutters and storm drains. This organic material decomposes in streams and decreases the oxygen necessary for aquatic life.

Minimize the use of fertilizers and consider non-chemical pest management. Apply chemicals in dry weather and water sparingly to keep them in your yard. Sweep from sidewalks and driveways back into the yard. For more information: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/4000/4031.html>.

Bag pet waste and throw it in the trash. It contains nitrogen, phosphorous and harmful bacteria and parasites which pollute our streams. Never hose it down a storm drain.

Direct roof drains to the yard, a rain barrel or rain garden instead of to driveways, streets or storm drains. For information on rain gardens, visit www.franklinswcd.org.



A rain garden using downspout water at the Washington Township offices

FSWCD photograph

...In the Garage

Wash your car on grass or gravel, or use commercial car washes because they are required to recycle water and send it to a wastewater treatment plant. Car wash water carries soap, dirt and grease down the storm drain to the nearest stream.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean parking areas. Use kitty litter to soak up auto leaks or chemical spills, then sweep up, double bag and put it in the trash.

Recycle used oil at Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone and Napa auto-parts stores and Jiffy Lube Service Centers.

...Around the House

Treat oil-based paint, thinners, solvents and polishes as household hazardous waste. Latex paint is water-based so rinse brushes in a sink. Allow unneeded latex paint to dry and throw in the trash.

Store all chemicals in a dry place protected from the rain. Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed of to prevent pollution. For collection dates and locations, call: (614) 871-5100 or visit www.swaco.org.

Decide if and when you need heavy-duty cleaning power. Some household cleaners are difficult for wastewater treatment plants to remove. Phosphates in some dishwasher soaps and the anti-bacterial ingredient triclosan are examples of this.

Maintain your aerator or septic system. Put aside a monthly "fee" so the pumping necessary every three to five years will be covered. For more information: www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/documents/Sewage200.pdf.