

Board of Stark County Commissioners Stormwater
Education Program - 330-451-7405
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Stark County Stormwater Public Involvement/
Public Education (P.I.P.E.) Committee Members

City of Alliance

City of Canton

Village of East Canton

Jackson Township

Keep Alliance Beautiful

City of North Canton

Perry Township

Plain Township

Stark County Health Department

Stark County Park District

Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District

Stark County Regional Planning Commission

Use the Force
to Battle Stormwater
Pollution



Keeping Water Clean Throughout Stark County!

Things You Can Do To Protect Our Local Water

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged **untreated** into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Only 1% of our water is usable drinkable water. We can not afford to pollute and contaminate it.



Sewers and storm drains are not the same thing. Waste water from your sinks, showers, toilets, and washing machines will travel through the sanitary sewer system to a waste water treatment plant where it is extensively treated before being discharged. However, the water entering storm drains flows untreated to lakes, streams, and rivers.



Reduce stormwater by directing downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn or plant beds. Use mulch, bricks, gravel or other porous surfaces on driveways and walkways to decrease erosion.

Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard.



Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Fertilize only as needed using natural, organic, or other slow release fertilizers. Do not apply them if it is supposed to rain.



Go to a carwash or wash your car in the grass. Don't wash dirt and cleaners down the driveway where it will flow into the storm drain.

Recycle used motor oil. Autozone and Valvoline accept used oil. Never dump oil or antifreeze down storm drains which flow into creeks and rivers.

Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.



Choose water-based paints like latex. Paint thinner can be re-used and recycled. Do not pour any paint or toxic material down the drain.

Dispose of any hazardous home chemicals at approved household hazardous waste collections. Use the least toxic products available in your home and garden.



Recycle all acceptable materials and use your garbage can for all other trash. Don't litter. It will eventually be washed to our creeks and rivers and pollute them.

Alternatives to household hazardous materials:

Glass cleaners - mix 1 tbs. lemon juice in 1 quart water.

Rug deodorizer - sprinkle baking soda on dry carpets (wait 15 min. then vacuum).

Toilet bowl cleaner - use toilet brush with baking soda or vinegar.

Furniture polish - mix 1 tsp. lemon juice in 1 pint vegetable oil.

Ant control - sprinkle equal parts powdered sugar & borax on anthills. At point of entry, pour a line of paprika or red chili powder.

Flea/tick products - put brewer's yeast or garlic in your pet's food; sprinkle fennel or rosemary around animal sleeping areas.

