



## WHAT IS A STORM SEWER??

Storm Sewers collect rain water and melting snow that run off of impermeable roofs, streets, parking lots, and lawns. The storm water runoff can transport toxic pollutants untreated, to a local stream, river, or lake. These pollutants can adversely affect or kill aquatic life, degrade the beauty of our natural resources and impair natural waterways to the point that they must be closed for recreation. Storm water awareness can help keep our local waterways clean.

The City of Youngstown has made a commitment to develop and implement storm water management and public outreach within the City. The mission is to heighten citizen storm water awareness and eliminate dumping of litter and other household hazardous materials into storm drains and ditches.

## THE PROBLEM:

### The Pollutants of Concern:

#### 1.) NUTRIENTS

(Nitrogen, Phosphorus, fertilizers)-Excess nutrients create algae blooms in waterways. This reduces the amount of available oxygen in the water for the aquatic life and gives drinking water a bad odor and taste.

#### 2.) PATHOGENS

(bacteria, viruses, etc.)-Pet waste and failing septic tanks pollute storm water with harmful levels of bacteria that cause a variety of health problems.

#### 3.) PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS

(oil, grease, solvents, etc)-Oil and grease that drips or spills onto the land surface washes into the storm drain. One quart of oil can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water.

#### 4.) TOXIC POLLUTANTS

Household products such as paint, antifreeze, and pesticides are considered hazardous wastes. These products can be harmful to wildlife and the environment when not disposed of properly.

#### 5.) LITTER

Trash is transported by the runoff from urban areas to ditches and storm drains. It can clog storm drains and contribute to flooding.



## SOLUTION:

### Things you can do:

#### 1.) JOIN THE STORM WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT EFFORT:

Try to practice these helpful hints in keeping storm water clean.

#### 2.) EROSION CONTROL:

Rocks, trees, plants, and seeding can help reduce erosion-causing sediment pollution.

#### 3.) OUTDOOR CLEANING:

Wash outdoor items with biodegradable soap and wash them in the yard. Grass helps to filter out the soaps before they reach the storm drain.

#### 4.) TRASH & RECYCLING:

Properly dispose of trash and any hazardous household chemicals. Please try to reuse and recycle where possible.

#### 5.) CHECK FOR OIL LEAKS:

Place a drip pan under any leaking vehicle until they can be repaired. Clean up spills with absorbent materials like kitty litter and dispose in the trash.

