In Your Community

Your community has been designated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, or IDEM, as a municipal separate storm sewer system, or MS4, and is required to comply with a state-issued storm water permit. Your community is implementing a program to prevent storm water pollution and improve the water quality of local water bodies.

As part of this program, ordinances have been issued to protect storm water. One ordinance is for prohibiting illicit connections to the storm sewer and illegal dumping. Only pure rain water should enter storm drains or surface waters.

Your community promotes pollution prevention activities and education as part of this program. Look for ways you, your family, and your workplace can get involved in pollution prevention.

For more Information on Pollution Prevention

Visit IDEM's Storm Water Quality Webpage:
http://www.in.gov/idem/4900.htm

Help your kids explore the world of water resources:
http://www.epa.gov/kids/water.htm

Learn about your local Soil and Water Conservation District at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts:
http://www.iaswcd.org/

Look for more information on storm water issues at the Connersville Utility Office or contact Mike Bottomley, Director of Utilities, at 765-825-2158.

Prepared by
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Storm Water Pollution Prevention: Protecting Your Waterways

Storm Water

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals are dissolved in water at the surface and transported with storm water into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution.

The following are examples of potential sources of storm water pollution in your community.
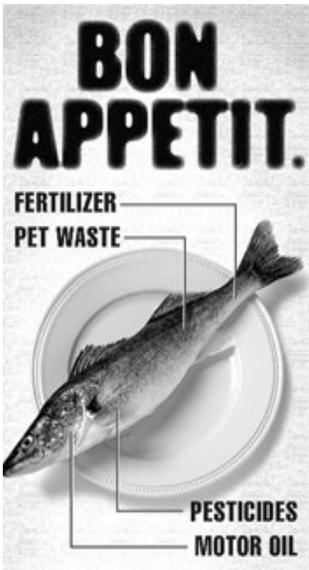
- Lawn chemicals can add fertilizers and herbicides to storm water.

- Oil stains on your driveway can be washed into storm water.

- Septic systems may add bacteria and household chemicals.

- Any chemicals left outdoors and exposed to storm water have the potential to pollute it.

Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation. Protecting our water bodies from all sources of contamination can be accomplished through the cooperation of citizens, government, and businesses.

What can you do to prevent storm water pollution?

- Clean up your property. Properly dispose of outdated or unused household chemicals stored in your basement, garage, or barn and do not store these materials outdoors.

- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in storm drains, alleys, or the ground. This pollutes the water supply.

- Do not store open containers, pails, buckets or pans of oils and chemicals outdoors.

- Reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals that you use. Buy only what you need so that you don't have to dispose of leftovers. Read all the labels and follow directions.

- Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.

- Clean up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash container or toilet. When left outdoors, pet waste contributes bacteria and nutrients to storm water.

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved surface to reduce the amount of dirty, soapy water entering storm drains and waterways.

- Cover piles of soil and mulch being used for landscaping projects.

- Prevent debris from entering nearby storm drains when conducting outdoor home improvement or landscaping projects.

- If you have a septic system, have it serviced regularly. Make sure it is not connected to the storm sewer or polluting a creek or body of water.

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit shows non-detectable levels of chlorine.

- Contact Connersville Utilities through the storm water hotline at 765-825-2158 to report discharges of pollutants to the storm water system.