

## WOULD YOU THROW OIL, ANTIFREEZE, PAINT, GRASS CLIPPINGS, OR PET WASTE INTO YOUR LOCAL STREAM OR DITCH?

### A FEW CHANGES IN YOUR USE OF STORM DRAINS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY, WHILE PROTECT- ING OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS...

We all have waterfront property! Trash, leaves, grass, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, antifreeze, pet wastes, etc. is carried by rainfall or snowmelt as it flows over our streets and ends up in our local waterways.

Unlike the wastewater from your home that is treated by either a septic system or a wastewater treatment plant, water entering the storm drain flows directly untreated to the nearest river, stream or ditch. Storm drain systems, and many ditch systems, were created to prevent flooding after rain events by quickly diverting rainwater to local waterways. When storm drains and ditches are misused, clogged, or polluted, they can increase flooding, damage your property, and harm our streams, rivers, and lakes.



## LET'S BUILD SOMETHING

Construction and other earth disturbing activities can contribute large quantities of sediment to streams, if the soil is not prevented from being carried off the site during a rain event. The accumulation of sediment in our rivers, streams, and ditches reduces their capacity, increases flooding, and smothers aquatic spawning areas.

- Don't disturb any more ground than necessary. Leave a border of grass or other vegetation around soil that is exposed during the construction of a garage or addition. This border helps to slow down rain or snowmelt runoff, allowing the sediment to be deposited on site and not in the storm drain or ditch.
- If your project is adjacent to a road, stream, or ditch use a barrier structure such as silt fencing to keep the sediment from getting into the storm drains or waterway. Keep vehicles on paved or stone surfaces to prevent tracking soil off site.
- Immediately seed, sod, or mulch after ground disturbance activities are completed, or if such activities will be temporarily suspended for 21 days or more. Sediment in runoff can cause flood damage and decrease property values. It negatively impacts water quality by degrading the habitat of aquatic organisms and fish.

## GET INVOLVED

- Participate in a local storm drain stenciling campaign. Any type of group such as a school, scout, church, civic, neighborhood, can get together and stencil storm drains with a simple message reminding citizens where the storm drain empties.
- Report any improper dumping into storm drains. In emergency situations contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency emergency spill number at (800) 282-9378.
- Get involved in local environmental activities as a member or volunteer. You can do your part to leave a legacy of clean water for future generations. Through your efforts local lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks can remain safe for drinking water and accessible for recreational boating, canoeing, and fishing.
- For More Information Contact:
- City of Sidney (937) 498-8724

