

SPRINGTIME BRINGS MORE THAN FLOWERS WITH THOSE SHOWERS

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, it also brings spring showers and melting snow. When snow melts and rain falls, it flows across streets, driveways, parking lots and rooftops and transports sand, salt, leaves, oil, trash and many other pollutants directly to storm drains, which eventually ends up in our lakes and streams.

Some folks mistakenly think that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant. But the truth is that it goes right to our lakes and streams.

You Can Help

There are many things each of us can do to prevent storm water pollution.

- 9 Use salt sparingly during the winter.
- 9 Sweep up any excess sand left over from the snow shoveling season.
- 9 Clean up pet waste year round—flush it down the toilet or collect it in a bucket until you can bury it properly.
- 9 Keep cars well maintained repairing leaks; but consider walking, public transportation or riding a bike whenever you can.
- 9 Direct rainwater away from paved areas to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- 9 Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street. Compost yard waste, debris and leaves.
- 9 Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If a test shows that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply it according to directions and carefully clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- 9 Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.
- 9 Prevent soil erosion.
- 9 Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or into the ditch.



Go to www.myfairlakes.com for more ideas on how you can help our lakes and streams.