

► **What is stormwater and why do we need to manage it?**



Federal and State laws regulating water quality and the management of stormwater necessitate that the City of Massillon re-evaluate the way it manages the water that runs off impervious surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, or rooftops.



Stormwater runoff carries pollutants directly to the Tuscarawas River and creeks and has the potential to create not only drainage and flooding problems but water quality issues throughout the city.



Storm Water *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF MASSILLON

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers **sparingly**. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select **native** plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- **Sweep up** yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the **cool** times of the day, and don't let water run-off into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies. **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.



Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Swimming Pool and Spa

- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.



Storm drains connect to waterbodies!



Keep Massillon Beautiful.

EVERYONE CAN HELP PREVENT LITTER

The easiest way to prevent litter is to care for the earth and obey the law by disposing of all waste properly in a municipal landfill, a waste collection site, or by recycling or reuse. You can also do the following:

1. Never throw any waste from a vehicle – commercial or private.
2. Always use a trash container – even if it means carrying trash until you find one. Never leave trash near a full container.
3. Always secure all truck loads – it is illegal to allow anything to fall or blow from a truck.
4. If your business has a dumpster, secure it from illegal use and empty it promptly when it is full.
5. If your business has a loading dock, provide trash containers and require their use.
6. Always secure your household trash – make sure it is not scattered by weather or animals.
7. If you are in the construction or demolition business, use proper waste handling practices as described in the Build America Beautiful program.

Cleaning up and preventing litter is an easy way that citizens can have an immediate impact on the quality of life in a community. Join a cleanup in your neighborhood. If a cleanup is not planned, then organize one yourself.

The City of Massillon provides an annual clean-up day and recycling facilities.



WATERSHED LITTER PREVENTION

This brochure provides some suggestions to prevent litter and other types of solid waste from entering our creeks, rivers and lakes “indirectly”. When it rains, anything that is on a street, highway, parking lot or other ground surface will enter the storm water system. You don’t have to throw waste directly into the creek or river to pollute the water. Most of the floatable trash in our creeks, rivers and lakes comes from our city streets and highways after a heavy rain.

WHY DO PEOPLE LITTER?

People litter because:

1. **Personal choice.** - They don’t care.
2. **Litter begets litter.** Individuals are much more likely to litter into a littered environment. And once there, it attracts more litter.
3. **It’s “not my responsibility”.** Some people feel no sense of ownership for parks, walkways, and other public spaces. They believe someone else will pick up after them.

A clean community, by contrast, can discourage littering and improve community appearance and quality of life.

WHERE DOES LITTER COME FROM?

According to Keep America Beautiful there are 7 primary sources of litter:

1. Motorists
2. Pedestrians
3. Uncovered trucks
4. Overflowing dumpsters
5. Improperly stored household trash
6. Construction & demolition sites
7. Loading docks

HOW DOES RUBBISH TAKE ITS TOLL?

Consider these startling statistics:

A glass bottle can take 1 million years to decompose.

An Aluminum can, roughly 200-500 years.

A plastic jug, 70 years.

Disposable diaper, 10-20 years.

Candy wrapper, 1-3 months.

Traffic ticket, 2-4 weeks.



THE COSTS OF AMERICAN LITTERING

OVER 51 BILLION PIECES OF LITTER LAND ON U.S. ROADWAYS EACH YEAR. MOST OF IT, 46.6 BILLION PIECES, IS LESS THAN FOUR INCHES, ACCORDING TO KAB’S 2009 NATIONAL VISIBLE LITTER SURVEY AND LITTER COST STUDY. THAT’S 6,729 ITEMS PER MILE.

WHILE VISIBLE ROADSIDE LITTER HAS DECREASED BY ABOUT 61% SINCE 1969, LITTER IS STILL A PERSISTENT PROBLEM. CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- **LITTER CLEANUP COSTS THE U.S. ALMOST \$11.5 BILLION EACH YEAR,** WITH BUSINESSES PAYING \$9.1 BILLION. GOVERNMENTS, SCHOOLS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PICK UP THE REMAINDER.
- **COMMUNITY ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE SUFFER.** THE PRESENCE OF LITTER IN A COMMUNITY TAKES A TOLL ON QUALITY OF LIFE, PROPERTY VALUES, AND HOUSING PRICES.
- **LITTER HAS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.** WIND AND WEATHER, TRAFFIC, AND ANIMALS MOVE LITTER INTO GUTTERS, LAWNS AND LANDSCAPED AREAS, ALLEYWAYS, AND PARKING STRUCTURES. DEBRIS MAY BE CARRIED BY STORM DRAINS INTO LOCAL WATERWAYS, WITH POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION.

Tips Just for Kids

Taking care of our environment is a very important job.

There's something for everyone to do-including you! No matter where you live, there are many things you can do around your neighborhood or at school, such as setting an example by not littering, helping clean up a spot, and learning about safe ways to handle trash.

You can start by choosing one or more of these ideas. Some are simple. Others will need the help of a parent, older family member, or teacher. You can involve your friends and family in all of them.

Always set an example by not littering, no matter where you are.

When you put out the trash at home, make sure that garbage can lids are on tight, and that all of the trash goes into the can.

If your parents own a car, make litterbags for them. Keep your yard clean and free of things that can blow into the street and become litter.

If your school playground doesn't have a litter basket, have your teacher ask the school to put one out. Your class can make and put up posters reminding other students to put litter where it belongs.

Ask a parent or teacher to take you or your class to a recycling center or sanitary landfill. Many recycling centers or landfills will let you see how trash is managed. List the different kinds of items that the recycling center collects, and how each one is prepared for shipment. At the landfill, list the kinds of equipment you see, and what each does.

Whenever you visit a park, carry out what you bring in-keep unwanted items in a bag or backpack until you can put them in a litter basket.

If your family puts recyclables in a bin at curbside, tie up loose papers that could blow out.