

Residents and businesses can help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff!

Soaking up the rain helps to keep rainwater on-site and reduce the polluted runoff flowing into our streets and local waterways. As a property owner, you can help to control the amount of stormwater that flows into the system coming from your property. Even small actions by property owners can increase our quality of life while reducing the volume of stormwater entering the system. This will help improve the water quality of Lake St. Clair and the rest of the Great Lakes Region.



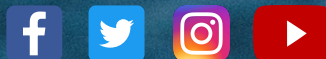
By practicing healthy habits, property owners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect streams, rivers, wetlands and Lake St. Clair. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors, friends and family!



MACOMB COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER CANDICE S. MILLER

21777 Dunham Road Clinton Township, MI 48036
586-469-5325 | public.works@macombgov.org
publicworks.macombgov.org

Follow us!



Office of
Public Works

Commissioner Candice S. Miller

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

A practical guide to help reduce the impact of stormwater pollution & protect our waterways





What is stormwater?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is it harmful?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, bacteria, viruses and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a stream, river, wetland or Lake St. Clair. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for our source of drinking water, boating, swimming and fishing.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Plant a tree!

Rain soaks into soil 50% better under a tree canopy

Mow Higher

Setting your mow height higher will slow the rate of runoff and produce a better root system.

Install Rain Barrels

You can collect rainwater from rooftops mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawns or gardens.

Use a commercial car wash

Or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surfaces to minimize the amount of dirty/soapy water.

Install Rain Gardens

Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect & soak into the ground to filter pollutants.

Recycle toxic chemicals, used oil and other automotive fluids

Check with your local municipality to utilize local hazardous waste events.

Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.

Fix vehicle leaks and clean up

spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. Do not rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.

Pesticides & Fertilizers

Use sparingly and sweep off concrete.

Drain your swimming pool

only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.

Compost or mulch yard waste

Don't leave yard waste in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.

Pick up pet waste

Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain.