

STORMWATER COALITION



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Information provided by the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

The Stormwater Coalition is a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419.241.9155). The coalition is composed of the following members:

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City of Northwood
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City of Oregon
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City of Rossford
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City of Sylvania
(419.885.8959)
City of Toledo
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City of Waterville
(419.878.8100)
Village of Haskins
(419.823.1911)
Village of Holland
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Village of Millbury
(419.836.9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills
(419.536.1111)
Village of Walbridge
(419.666.1830)
Jerusalem Township
(419.836.8921)
Lake Township
(419.838.6536)
Middleton Township
(419.823.1480)
Monclova Township
(419.865.7862)
Perrysburg Township
(419.872.8861)
Spencer Township
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Springfield Township
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Sylvania Township
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Washington Township
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Association of General Contractors of Northwest Ohio
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Home Builders Association
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Preparing Gardens for Spring Rains

As the snow melts and spring rains begin, our lawns, gardens, and parking lots are flooded with stormwater. Have you ever wondered where all of that water goes? While some of this rain water lands on soil where it soaks in and helps grass, gardens and trees grow, much of it falls on impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, roads, and parking lots) and flows directly into storm drains. Storm drains carry the water – and the pollutants the water picks up – directly to nearby rivers and streams. Fortunately, there are things you can do to control stormwater and reduce pollution.

Recycle Rainwater. A rainwater harvesting system collects the rainwater that runs off your roof and prevents it from ever entering a storm drain. Consider purchasing or making a rain barrel to collect water during wet weather. You can direct your downspouts to drain into a barrel or two. The collected water can then be used to irrigate your lawn and garden during dry weather. Using stored rainwater has the added benefit



of saving you money on your water and sewer bill.



Another option for water recycling is a rain garden. Rainwater can be directed from downspouts or driveways to a low-lying garden area. Pooled rainwater will slowly percolate through the soil, rather than running off into a storm sewer. Rain gardens are a beautiful addition to any property, help to purify water of contaminants, improve soil quality, and provide habitat for butterflies.

If you are not yet ready for a rain garden or rain barrel, consider routing your downspouts away from paved areas to an existing garden or grassy area. Contact the Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative for more information on recycling rainwater.
<http://www.raingardeninitiative.org/>

Be mindful of what you apply to your lawn and gardens. The fertilizers we use on our lawns contain the same nutrients that algae thrive on. After rains, fertilizers can wash into storm sewers, travel downstream to Lake Erie, and contribute to the Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) that have plagued Maumee Bay and Lake Erie in recent years. Cutting back on fertilizer will not only help improve water quality, it will also save time and money. Most lawns need very little fertilizer to be healthy.

Pesticides that kill troublesome bugs and weeds in your yard can also be toxic to aquatic life, killing beneficial fish, insects, and crustaceans. There are many alternatives to spraying chemicals on your property. Removing weeds by hand is better for your garden plants, keeps chemical contaminants from ever touching your food plants, and is also good exercise. If you must use pesticides, use sparingly by spot treating weeds and insects and never spray near waterways or just before rain.

See the Give Water a Hand tip card for more information:

http://www.tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/GWAH_tipcard_2.pdf