



Managing Storm Water in Our Community

City of Evansdale Special Storm Water Newsletter

Storm Water Smarts

When it rains, what goes down the storm drain? As rain water flows over yards, driveways and city streets, it picks up pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides, oil from cars, trash and other pollutants. It's tempting to think that storm water visits the local waste water treatment plant, but in most communities water that goes down the storm drain discharges into lakes and streams without any treatment at all. Polluted rain water can degrade water quality and cause closures of favorite fishing and recreation areas.

Viewer Tip: You can help protect water quality - starting in your own backyard.

- **Pick up.** The Humane Society estimates there are more than 77 million owned dogs in the United States. If one of them belongs to you, make sure to pick up after your pet at home and on walks.
- **Slow down.** Keep rain water on your property by directing downspouts onto a lawn or grassy area, away from driveways and sidewalks.
- **Use less.** Try reducing the amount of fertilizers and pesticides you use on your lawn and garden. When you do apply yard-care products, make sure there is no rain in the forecast to minimize impacts on water quality.

STORM WATER POLLUTANTS AND SOURCES INCLUDE:

- Oil, grease, and antifreeze from car leaks, gas stations and industrial areas
- Carelessly discarded trash such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles
- Illicit connections to storm sewers
- Illegally dumped pollutants
- Nutrients from lawn fertilizer
- Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, parks, and roadsides
- Bacteria from pet waste and septic systems
- Sediment from construction sites
- Grass clippings and leaves

⊘ Depositing Yard Waste onto City Streets

The Evansdale Municipal Code prohibits anyone from depositing debris or yard waste of any kind onto the street, or curb and gutter. Violators may receive a warning or citation and the clean-up charges may be assessed against your property.

Grass clippings that are discharged by lawn mowers or dumped onto the street, curb or gutter, or in creeks or streams, stop up storm drains and prohibit optimum flow. Mowers should discharge grass back into the yard not onto the streets. During hard rains, blocked storm drains back up water into the street causing flooding of streets and property. In addition, yard waste dumped into our streams and ponds can cause increased natural bacteria growth (blue-green algae) which can release toxins that can be harmful if ingested by humans and pets.

What you can do: Aim your mower discharge away from the street. Sweep, rake, blow any remaining clippings or leaves that get in the street. You can also collect your grass clippings and drop them off at the Yard Waste Center.

Please contact the Evansdale Code Enforcement Officer at 319-232-6683 to report violators.

STREET SWEEPING

The Street Department will be street sweeping through the middle of November. It usually takes six or seven days to complete the entire City, depending on the weather.

Street sweeping helps remove sediment, debris and sand from the street to help prevent the materials from getting into our storm water system.

Storm water

Water Conservation

10 Ways to Conserve Water (from <http://www.americanrivers.org/take-action/other-ways/conserve/>)

A family of four in the United States uses 400 gallons of water every day. That's a lot of water - enough to take 10 baths! By being smarter about our water use, we can save water, energy, and money, we can help our rivers, too. Here are 10 simple tips for saving water and helping rivers. Got a new tip to share? Let us know!

1. Turn the water off while you brush your teeth and save over two gallons a minute.
2. Fix dripping faucets and running toilets. A leaky faucet that drips at a rate of one drop per second can waste up to 2,700 gallons a year.
3. Save water and money by choosing efficient showerheads, dishwashers, and other appliances. Look for the WaterSense label.
4. Only run your washing machine and dish washer when they are full.
5. Dispose of chemicals properly at a hazardous waste drop off center - don't pour them on the ground, into the sewer, or down the drain.
6. Avoid using pesticides or herbicides on your yard and garden -- the chemicals can contaminate groundwater and streams, and can also hurt kids and pets.
7. In the yard, use mulch to keep moisture from leaving the soil and minimize the need to water.
8. If you must water the lawn, water in the early morning or evening, and try to avoid watering on windy days. This will limit the amount of water that is evaporated by the sun or blown onto sidewalks and driveways.
9. Plant a rain garden to add beauty to your yard, while absorbing and filtering runoff. Water absorbed in a rain garden will filter pollution otherwise headed for streams.
10. Use a rain barrel to collect rain and help water your plants. Forty percent of the average homeowner's water use is outdoors. Rain barrels reduce the stress on municipal water systems during the dry, summer months.

Recycling

Recycling is an essential Stormwater and water quality protection practice. How does recycling tie into Stormwater? Well, Stormwater is pretty dirty stuff when you think about it. During a rain event, the water that lands on paved surfaces like roads and parking lots picks up everything in its path. Everything. The plastic bag from the grocery store, the Styrofoam cup from your local coffee shop, the plastic water bottle, and the paper bag from the fast food place...they're not in your car anymore but that's not the end of their stories. Let's see where they go...The road or the parking lot drain to the ditch that drains to the creek that flows into the lake where you get your drinking water or the ocean that you are swimming or cruising....Hmmm. Apart from the low-life aspect of the litterbug, most of the items that are discarded are recyclable. Plastic bags can be recycled in any of the stores you visit. Many plastic water bottles have a nickel return now just like cans. Even if you can't return the plastic bottle, it can be added to your recycling bin. Paper bags are recyclable or, at the very least, reusable. What about Styrofoam cups? Please stop using them! They never break down and they are filling our oceans with trash. It takes 10 minutes to drink a cup of coffee but the cup lasts forever! Splurge for a re-usable coffee mug and know that you're helping protect and conserve our water resources.

We invite you, our residents, to participate in storm water management by alerting City Personnel with any storm water pollution practices that could be impacting your neighborhood.