



# Managing Storm Water in Our Community

*City of Evansdale Special Storm Water Newsletter*

## What does storm water management really mean?

It boils down to uncontrolled urban runoff wrecking havoc in our natural environment and polluting our drinking water sources. This, in turn, affects our health, the environment and the state.

### STORM WATER POLLUTANTS AND SOURCES INCLUDE:

- Oil, grease, and antifreeze from car leaks, gas stations and industrial areas
- Litter - 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



### STREET SWEEPING

Last week, the Street Department completed its seasonal street sweeping route through town.

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

### 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 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 end up clogging storm drains and preventing 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.

### Sump Pumps

As the rainy season approaches, make sure your sump pump drainage isn't being discharged to your floor drain. This practice of discharging sump pump drainage into the sanitary sewer system is illegal and can inundate the sewer pipes, lift stations, and the sewer plant. This practice may also lead to sewer back up in homes.

Instead, direct your sump pump drainage to the outside rear yard or side yard. For more information or questions, call the City Building Inspector at 232-6683.

## Storm water



### The Scoop on Poop

It's not the most glamorous subject to think about, however, when it comes to protecting the water quality of our streams and lakes it's worthy of discussion. So what's the harm in a little poop left behind every once in a while? Turns out to be a

bigger problem than most people think.

#### Dog Waste FAQ's:

##### 1. Why should I be concerned about dog poop?

Everyone wants the water they drink, swim in, or fish in to be clean. Studies have found high concentrations of indicator bacteria called fecal coliform in urban streams. **Just one ounce of dog feces contains 23 million microorganisms of bacteria - nearly twice that of human waste.**

**2. How big is the problem?** The average-size dog produces about a half-pound of poop per day. According to rabies license records, there are about **300+** dogs in the City of Evansdale. Altogether, they generate about 150 pounds of poop each day. BOW WOW! That is pile of problems!

**3. How does dog poop affect human health?** Ingesting or coming into contact with water contaminated with certain bacteria from animal wastes can make people ill, causing some diseases. The feces also can contain hookworms, roundworms and other parasites that can be spread to adults and children walking barefoot or playing in the grass near dog waste.

**4. Why is dog waste more of a pollution problem than other animal waste?** An average-size dog dropping contains 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria, much higher than most other animals.

**5. Can't I just put it down the storm drain?** No! It's not as simple as out of sight, out of mind. Storm drains in our community are directly connected to local lakes and streams with no treatment in between.

Plan ahead for pet accidents during walks by bringing a plastic bag with you.

[www.lowaStormwater.org](http://www.lowaStormwater.org)



### Awareness & Responsibility

Daily activities can impact water quality. Most rainfall enters streams and lakes through storm drains in neighborhoods without being treated. There are many ways you can prevent stormwater pollution:

- ✓ Wash your car at a carwash or on the lawn, not the driveway
- ✓ Redirect roof drains to gardens or other vegetated areas
- ✓ Properly dispose of all household hazardous waste
- ✓ Bag and compost leaves and lawn clippings to significantly reduce nutrient levels from yard runoff
- ✓ If you have a drainage-way that runs through your property, avoid piling grass clippings, sticks or branches as it will choke out vegetation that prevents stream-bank erosion
- ✓ Fertilize and apply pesticides according to manufacturers' instructions. Sweep any spills away from or off of driveways, sidewalks, or streets  
Look for phosphorus-free fertilizer when purchasing fertilizer. Phosphorus is the middle number displayed on fertilizer bags, e.g. 20-0-20. Phosphorus-free fertilizer can help reduce algae blooms and is an unneeded nutrient on most central Iowa lawns
- ✓ Clean up pet waste to not only prevent excess nutrients from entering waterbodies, but to keep harmful bacteria out as well
- ✓ Never dump anything other than unpolluted stormwater or groundwater into the street or storm sewer

*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. Please call 232-6683.*