

Storm Water & Our City

City of Evansdale

Spring 2017

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 community's 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.

Polluted rain water can degrade water quality & cause closures of your favorite fishing spot!

Storm Water Pollutants & 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 on City Streets

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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 cleanup 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, block 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.

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 your home.

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.

April is Keep Iowa Beautiful Month

April 2017 will be the 5th year for Keep Iowa Beautiful Month. It is the time of year to celebrate the start of season to clean-up and improve the looks of our community. The time is right to fix-up, paint-up, clean-up, and plant-up our hometown!

The mayor will sign a proclamation April 4th to encourage our community to plan beautification enhancement projects during April and the rest of the year to follow.

Let's work together in keeping our community clean.



Visit us online at www.evansdale.gov.com

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

For more information on Iowa Storm Water visit their website at:

www.iowastormwater.org