

Storm Water & Our City

City of Evansdale

Spring 2023

Storm Water Smarts

Whatever rainfall or snow melt that does not infiltrate into the ground ends up as stormwater runoff. Did you know that stormwater runoff does not go to the wastewater treatment plant before it is released into the river? This means that anything that is on the ground can be washed into our waterways, polluting the rivers and streams that we utilize for many things.

Pet waste left on the ground contributes to high E-coli levels in sections of Dry Run Creek.

Applying fertilizers to lawns that are sitting on compacted soils or over applying fertilizers allows nutrients to flow into ponds and streams. These excess nutrients cause algal blooms.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “Too much

nitrogen and phosphorus in the water causes algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle. Significant increases in algae harm water quality, food resources and habitats, and decreases the oxygen that fish, and other aquatic life need to survive. Large growths of algae are called algal blooms and they can severely reduce or eliminate oxygen in the water, leading to illnesses in fish and the death of large numbers of fish. Some algal blooms are harmful to humans because they produce elevated toxins and bacterial growth that can make people sick if they encounter polluted water, consume tainted fish or shellfish, or drink contaminated water.”

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
- Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, parks, and roadsides
- Bacteria from pet waste and septic systems
- Sediment from construction sites

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.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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| CITY | ENVIRONMENT |
| WATER | CLIPPINGS |
| RAINFALL | SEWER |
| GRASS | FERTILIZER |
| EVANSDALE | RUNOFF |
| COMPOST | COMMUNITY |
| WASTE | INFILTRATE |
| NUTRIENTS | POLLUTANTS |

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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:

- ✓ Pick up after your pets
- ✓ Follow lawn fertilizer application instructions
- ✓ Use P Free fertilizer
- ✓ Aerate and add compost to your lawn
- ✓ Use de-icing salt sparingly
- ✓ Manage your runoff on site by installing a rain garden or rain barrels
- ✓ Properly dispose of yard waste ~ not on stream banks
- ✓ Keep contaminants out of the storm drain and street (leaves, oil, paint, dirt, concrete washout water)
- ✓ Go detergent free when power washing pavements

For more information on Iowa Storm Water visit their website at:
www.iowastormwater.org

