



# City of Greenfield Storm Water Utility MS4 Program

## Protecting Your Waterways

### In Your Community

The City of Greenfield has been designated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) as a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and is required to comply with a state-issued storm water permit. Greenfield is implementing a program to prevent storm water pollution and improve the water quality of local water bodies.

As part of this program, Greenfield passed the Storm Water Management Ordinance (No. 2006-13) to protect storm water. Only pure rain water should enter storm drains or surface waters. The ordinance prohibits illicit connections to the storm sewer and illegal dumping. The ordinance also regulates storm water detention, water quality and construction and post-construction practices.

Greenfield is promoting pollution prevention activities and education as part of this program. Look for ways you, your family, and your workplace can get involved in pollution prevention.

### What is Storm Water?

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation flows over the ground to a lake, stream, or river. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, and buildings prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Foreign substances, such as debris and chemicals are dissolved in water at the surface and transported with storm water into streams, rivers, and other water bodies, causing pollution. The following are examples of potential sources of storm water pollution in your community:

- Lawn chemicals can add fertilizers and herbicides to storm water.
- Oil drips on your driveway can be washed into storm water.
- Septic systems may add bacteria and household chemicals.
- Any chemicals left outdoors and exposed to storm water have the potential to pollute it.
- Bare soil can wash away when it rains.



Once pollution reaches water bodies, it can poison fish, damage ecosystems, and even end up in water used for drinking or recreation. Protecting our water bodies from all sources of contamination can be accomplished through the cooperation of citizens, government, and businesses.

## What can you do to prevent storm water pollution?

- Clean up your property. Properly dispose of outdated or unused household chemicals stored in your basement, garage, or barn. Do not store these materials outdoors.
- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries, and other products. Don't dispose of hazardous products in storm drains, alleys, or the ground. This pollutes the water supply.
- Reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals that you use. Buy only what you need so that you don't have to dispose of leftovers. Read all the labels and follow directions.
- Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.
- Clean up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash container or toilet. When left outdoors, pet waste contributes bacteria and nutrients to storm water.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved surface to reduce the amount of dirty, soapy water entering storm drains and waterways.
- Cover piles of soil and mulch being used for landscaping projects.
- Prevent debris from entering nearby storm drains when conducting outdoor home improvement or landscaping projects.
- If you have a septic system, have it serviced regularly. Make sure it is not connected to the storm sewer or polluting a creek or body of water
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit shows non-detectable levels of chlorine.
- If you spill chemicals, oil or fuel, clean it up with absorbent materials (for example kitty litter). Don't let it soak into the ground. Place absorbent in the trash.



### Citizen Involvement

Citizens of Greenfield can contact the Storm Water Hotline to report the illegal dumping of chemicals, heavy erosion from constructions sites, polluted water, or other illegal connections to the storm system (such as septic tank discharges or washing machine wash water).

The Storm Water Utility will accept Storm Water Hotline calls at (317) 325-1327 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday.

### For more Information on Pollution Prevention:

Visit IDEM's Storm Water Quality Webpage at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/5432.htm>

Help your kids explore the world of water resources at: <http://www.epa.gov/kids/water.htm>

Learn about the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at: <http://www.hancockswcd.org/>

Look for more information on storm water issues at the City Hall located at 10 South State Street in Greenfield, IN or visit the [Storm Water Utility webpage](#) . Visit the City's rain garden on the south side of City Hall.