

WAYS TO HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS:



- **Never Dump Anything Into Storm Drains:** Storm drains are for rain only! It is illegal to dispose of paint, chemicals or solid waste into storm drains. What goes in will come out untreated and directly into our waterways.
- **Don't Litter:** Trash makes its way into our waterways through stormwater runoff from parking lots, being tossed out of car windows or being directly dumped into streams.
- **Maintain Your Vehicle:** Regularly check for drips or leaks. Auto fluids wash off roads when it rains and is a source of pollution to our waterways. Never dump these fluids on the ground, down a storm drain or in a ditch.
- **Proper Disposal & Recycling:** Household trash should be properly disposed of. Used motor oil, antifreeze and batteries can be recycled. Empty bottles of household cleansers, pesticides and weed killer should be disposed of according to label directions. Proper disposal and recycling of these items will help keep these pollutants out of our waterways. For more recycling information, please contact the office of Keep Madison County Beautiful at 706-795-5151.
- **Get Involved:** Participate in community clean-up days & recycling events.
- **Report Violators:** Residents who observe illegal dumping or connections into stormwater drains or into our waterways should contact: **The Madison County Board of Commissioners at (706)795-6300, 8 AM-5 PM, Monday-Friday.**

HELP BE THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION:



~Get Involved~

The **Keep Madison County Beautiful** organization offers a variety of programs and events that residents can participate in to help protect our waterways and environment. For more information on these programs and events, please contact their office at **(706)795-5151**.

- **Adopt-A-Road:** Volunteer to adopt at least (1) mile of a county road and commit to picking up litter (4) times a year. This will help reduce the amount of pollutants in stormwater runoff. This program is open to individuals, families and community groups.
- **Recycling Events:** There are (2) recycling events that are held each year, one is in the spring and the other is in the fall. Residents can come and take advantage of free document destruction and can dispose of expired medications. In addition, residents can drop off shoes, clothing, batteries, ink cartridges, cell phones and books for recycling.
- **Bring One For The Chipper:** This event is held up to one month following Christmas Day. Residents can dispose of their undecorated "live" Christmas trees for recycling, and will receive a free tree seedling to plant in return. The trees are recycled into mulch which is made available to the public. Mulch helps prevent soil erosion and improves the quality of stormwater runoff.



Madison County Stormwater Management Program

Madison County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 147 ♦ 91 Albany Avenue
Danielsville, GA 30633
(706) 795-6300
www.madisoncountyga.us



Polluted Stormwater Runoff Is The Nation's Greatest Threat To Clean Water.

**Please Call to Report Violators or Problems.
(706)795-6300**



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is generated by rain or snowmelt from impervious areas such as driveways, paved streets and parking areas. It is also generated from pervious surfaces when more rain is falling than can soak into the ground. Impervious surfaces do not allow the rainfall to soak into the soil surface, causing the rainfall to become runoff. This runoff can enter stormwater drains which ends up going untreated and unfiltered into our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. The runoff can flow directly into our waterways as well.

WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?



When it rains, stormwater flows over streets, fields, lawns and buildings carrying pollutants such as garbage, debris, sediment, chemicals, automobile fluids, fertilizer, pesticides, bacteria and pet feces into our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. These pollutants can harm our natural vegetation, fish, wildlife and drinking water supplies. The EPA reports that stormwater runoff pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems.



THE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER POLLUTION:



Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

- Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from ingesting diseased fish or polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often forcing swimming and fishing closures.
- When debris such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts are washed into waterbodies, they can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish and turtles.
- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients (fertilizers) cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.



STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS:



The stormwater drainage system was designed to help prevent flooding by diverting excess rainwater into nearby waterways. The water flows into storm drains throughout underground pipes and directly into nearby creeks, streams, ponds or water reservoirs. Since this water is untreated before entering these waterways, it is vital to keep pollutants out of these drains.

Common Stormwater Drain Pollutants:

- Illegal disposal of paints, solvents, chemicals and used motor oil into stormwater drains.
- Illegal connections to stormwater drains such as roof drains, construction discharge pipes and washing machine drains.
- Roadside litter and other debris that is washed into stormwater drains.

