

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 cleanup days & recycling events.
- ◆ **Report Violators:** Residents who observe illegal dumping or connections into stormwater drains or into our waterways should contact:

Madison County BOC
706-795-6300,
8:00am — 5:00 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 environments. 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!

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater is surface water that comes from rain or snowfall. Stormwater runoff is the water that flows off streets, rooftops and lawns. Hard surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground, so it is often collected in storm drains and drainage ditches, where it flows into our natural waters without being treated.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POLLUTES!

Many people don't know that the quality of our natural water is threatened each time it rains. Stormwater runoff carries things like lawn fertilizers, pet waste, litter, chemicals, oil and grease, and other pollutants into our waterways. This can be harmful to both people and aquatic life.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 80% of water pollution is caused by stormwater runoff.



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.



THE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER POLLUTION

Polluted Stormwater Runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

- ◆ Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, 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 also 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.



WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER

Can you imagine not being able to swim or fish in your favorite stream, river or lake? Each time it rains, stormwater runoff from our roofs, streets, parking lots and lawns carries pollution as it flows across these surfaces. Unlike wastewater, the water that flows through our storm drains does not get treated before it enters our waterways. If polluted stormwater enters into our water sources, the health of our ecosystem may be damaged and this can make it dangerous to fish or swim in your local lake or stream. Stormwater pollution also makes monitoring and treating our drinking water more difficult and costly.

STORMWATER

Stormwater that enters the storm drain, ends up in the stream! Follow these tips for cleaner streams and a healthier environment.



 Fix oil or transmission leaks

 Don't litter - find a trash can

 Volunteer for a trash clean-up

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.