Clean Water Starts in Your Own Yard...

Water pollution has many sources. Up to half of all pollutants come not from factories or wastewater treatment plants, but from many diffuse sources resulting from our everyday activities. For example, dog waste left on the ground or chemicals sprayed on your lawn can get washed into the nearest waterways by the next rain. Pet waste and pesticides in your yard may not seem like they could have a large effect on local streams and lakes, but our waterways receive storm water from thousands of backyards. What we do in our own backyards and our own communities can make all the difference to the quality of our lakes and streams.

What is Storm Water Runoff?

Water that does not soak into the ground or evaporate is called storm water runoff. Storm water runoff flows over the ground surface and then into storm drains and ditches that empty directly into our local waterways. Storm water runoff volumes are greater in cities, villages, and other developed areas because water can’t soak through the pavement, rooftops, and concrete.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

Storm water runoff conveys more than just water to streams, rivers, and lakes. Rain and snowmelt carry dirt, grease, trash and more from roads, parking lots and other hard surfaces into storm drains and ditches, and these empty directly into our waterways. Storm water also carries excess nutrients, like phosphorus, which turns our lakes and streams green and smell and harms fish. The way to protect and clean our waterways is to make sure only rain—and nothing else—goes into the storm drains and ditches.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular waterway, be it a lake, stream or river. Your neighborhood, school and workplace are all part of a watershed; the roads we drive on and the parks we play in are also part of a watershed. Look at the map to learn where your water goes. Most of the storm water runoff in the Village of Belleville eventually drains into the Sugar River and Lake Belle View.

Belleville, WI

Stormwater Management Educational Brochure

Belleville, WI

Everyday Help Keep Our Lake Clean!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BY MAIL: City Administrator Village Hall 24 W. Main Street Belleville, WI 53508

- OR -

BY PHONE: (608) 424-3341

- OR -

LOG ONTO: www.bellevillewi.org

Water & Image Source: WIDNR Surface Water Data Viewer

Middle Sugar River - or - Upper Sugar River

Do I Live In? Which Watershed

Information

www.bellevillewi.org

Belleville, WI 53508

City Administrator

24 W. Main Street

Village Hall

BY PHONE:

BY MAIL:

- OR -

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Clean Water Starts in Your Own Backyard...

What Can I Do?

BE A POOPER SCOOPER: Pick Up After Your Pets
You can flush pet waste down the toilet, bury it 4-6 inches deep in the yard, toss it in the garbage, or dispose in a specially designed composter. Do not put it in your vegetable garden or compost that will be used for your garden.

KEEP SOIL IN YOUR YARD AND OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS
Bare soil easily washes into the storm drains. Cover exposed soil with seed and mulch as soon as possible. Cover piles of soil for your yard or garden with a tarp until you’re ready to use it. If you’re building a home, choose a builder who takes extra care not to track mud onto the streets, and who installs and maintains practices that prevent soil from washing off your lot during construction.

KEEP LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF DITCHES, SWALES AND WATERWAYS
Use leaves and/or grass clippings as mulch, or add it to a compost pile. Clippings and leaves can also be filled directly into gardens or flowerbeds. If you live in a city or village, check with your community for leaf, brush and grass clipping pick-up dates or disposal locations.

CONSERVE WATER: KEEP YOUR RAIN
Maximize infiltration in your yard by directing rain water away from paved areas. Plant a rain garden filled with deep-rooted grasses and wildflowers to maximize water absorption into the ground. If you don’t have a rain garden, aim downspouts to grassy areas or into a rain barrel.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR WATERSHED
Join a local watershed or conservation group and help clean up waterways in your area, such as the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association.

Kick Your Chemical Dependency
Use non-toxic alternatives to conventional household chemicals whenever possible. When not possible, properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals such as oil-based paints, cleaning chemicals, pesticides, solvents, batteries and disinfectants. Contact Village Hall to learn more about how to dispose of hazardous chemicals or check the Dane County Clean Sweep Program website at www.danecountyleansweep.com.

Don’t Overfeed Your Lawn
Test your soil before buying and applying fertilizer to your lawn. If soil tests show that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply according to manufacturer’s instructions. Don’t “double the dose.” After fertilizer application, you should sweep excess fertilizer off the driveway and street.

Practice Careful Car Care
Regularly maintain your car and fix any oil, radiator or transmission leak as soon as you see them. If you change your own oil, make sure to take the used oil to a recycling collection site. Never pour it behind the garage, on the driveway to kill weeds or down the storm drain. Also, consider using a commercial car wash, or wash your car on the driveway to prevent car-washing detergents from washing down the storm drain.

Use a Proper Container for Trash and Recyclables
Don’t put trash into the street or gutter where it can be washed into the storm sewer system and then to local waterways.

Be a Watershed Watchdog
If you see a potential storm water problem, such as clogged storm drains, trash in the gutter, pollutants washing into or discharging from storm sewers, or uncontrolled erosion from construction sites, contact your local municipal or county public works department.

ENTIRELY OPEN