

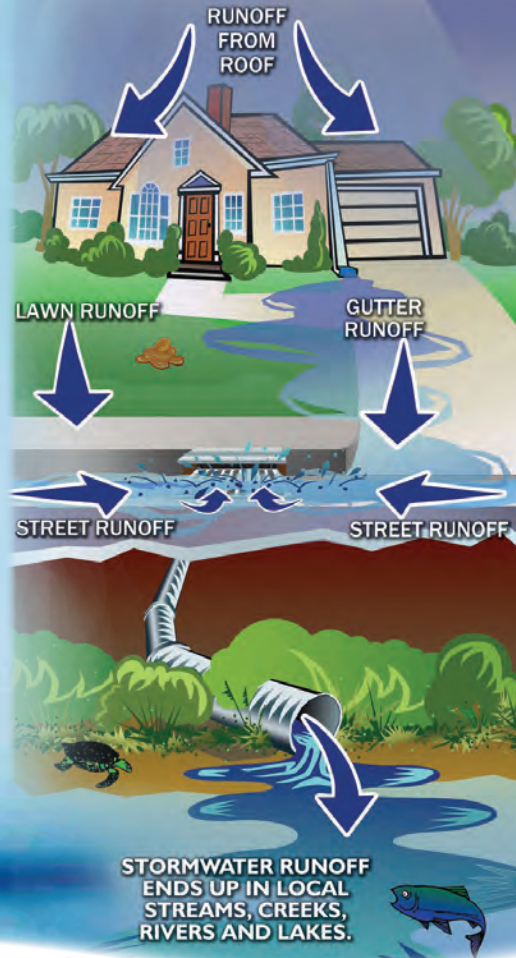
What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow to a body of water.

We all live in a watershed!

Your actions on the land directly impact the quality of the rivers, streams and lakes.

How so? Rainwater from roofs, lawns, driveways, streets, roadside ditches and parking lots drains to small creeks that flow into streams before eventually entering Lake Erie or the Ohio River. On its way, this "storm water" picks up oil and antifreeze that drips from our cars, excess fertilizer and pesticides from our lawns, litter, grass clippings, leaves, and pet waste.



STORM WATER - The Rundown On Runoff

- Storm water runoff picks up and carries pollutants into our waterways through storm drains or ditches.
 - Storm water runoff causes flooding, erosion, and contaminated water.
 - Keeping pollutants out of our waterways is less expensive than cleaning up the water in a treatment plant.
 - Let's keep our streams and rivers, our Great Lake, and our drinking water supplies healthy.
- ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!**

Since 2002, the **Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education (NEO PIPE)** Work Group has been committed to water quality education. Working together to create regional and community resources, NEO PIPE collaborates to effectively increase public awareness of storm water issues and provide opportunities to protect our shared waters. For more information on this banner initiative or reducing storm water pollution in your community, please contact your local agency.

Partnering Agencies

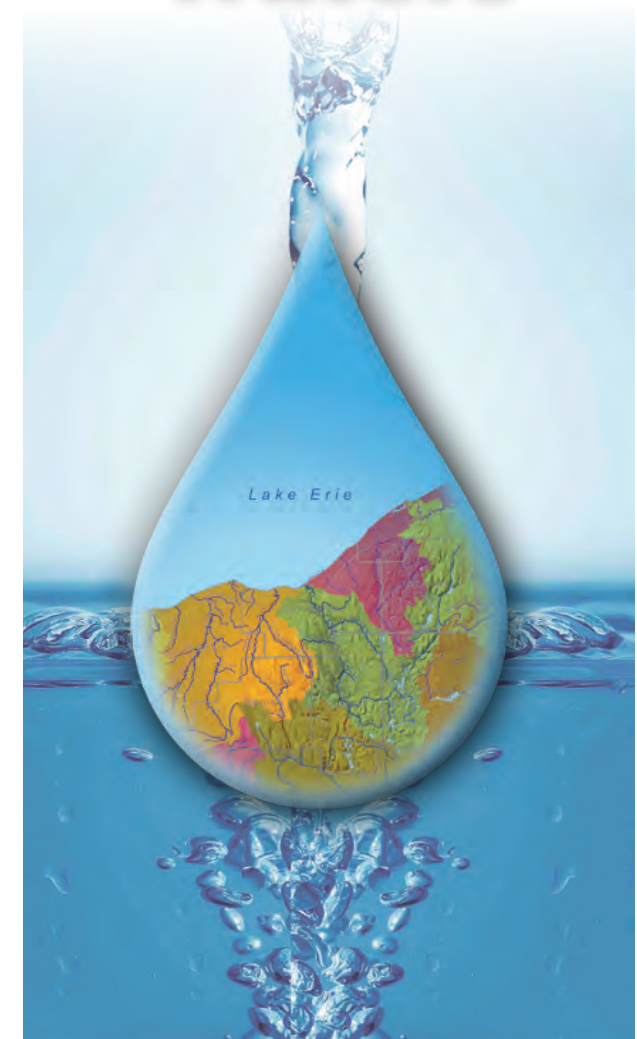
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| <p>City of Avon Lake
 www.avonlake.org
 440-930-4101</p> | <p>Lorain SWCD
 www.lorainswcd.com
 440-326-5800</p> |
| <p>Cuyahoga SWCD
 www.cuyahogawcd.org
 216-524-6580</p> | <p>Medina SWCD
 www.medinaswcd.org
 330-722-2628 ext. 3</p> |
| <p>Geauga SWCD
 www.geaugawcd.com
 440-834-1122</p> | <p>Portage SWCD
 www.portageswcd.org
 330-297-7633</p> |
| <p>Lake County SWCD
 www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil
 440-350-2730</p> | <p>Summit SWCD
 www.summitswcd.org
 330-929-2871</p> |

*Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

From the Upper Reaches to Lake Erie's Beaches: A Banner Year for Nonpoint Source Pollution Solutions is provided with support from the **Ohio Environmental Education Fund.**



Household Habits for Healthy Waters





Clean Storm Water Starts At Home

- Choose environmentally friendly household products.
- Contact your county's Solid Waste District for procedures and locations to dispose of household hazardous wastes.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Inspect and pump your septic system every 2-3 years.
- Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.



It's Not Hard To Have A Healthy Yard

- Don't guess... Soil Test.
- Fertilize sparingly and carefully.
- Mow high and let it lie.
- Plant right for your site. Go Native!
- Compost leaves instead of bagging or throwing them in the street or stream.
- Water lawn deeply and infrequently.
- Leave a vegetated area by your stream edge.



STORM WATER: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In

- Keep your water on site.
- Install a rain barrel. Collect water coming off your roof to be used in your yard or garden.
- Plant a rain garden. Capture and filter storm water runoff from rooftops and driveways by planting an attractive, landscaped area with native plants.
- Install a filter strip. Use flowers, grasses, trees or shrubs to filter water flowing across your yard.



Steer Clear of Pollutants

- Use a car wash or wash your car on the lawn to keep soapy water out of storm drains, ditches and waterways.
- Check your vehicles and equipment for leaks and spills. Clean up spills with absorbent materials.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids.

