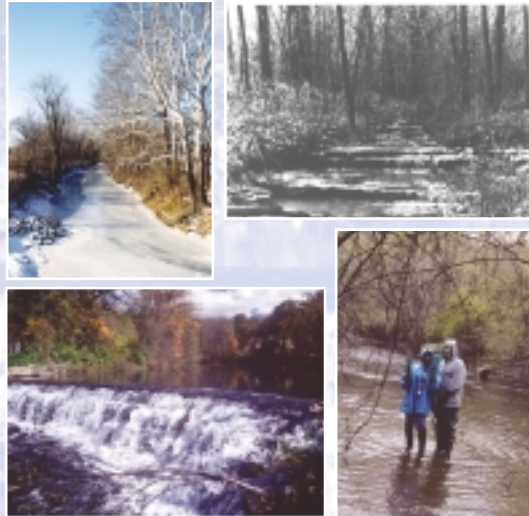


10 Things You Can Do to Help!

As a resident of one of the watersheds in Hamilton County, there are 10 simple things you can do to help improve the quality of storm water that enters our nearby streams, creeks, lakes and rivers.

1. Cover or seed all bare soil and preserve stream side vegetation; sediment is our #1 water pollutant by volume.
2. Do not dump anything into storm drains and report anyone who dumps chemicals into storm drains by calling the Storm Water District Hotline at 513-946-7000 or your local Police Department. Storm water that enters these drains generally goes untreated and flows into local waterways.
3. Participate in community clean-ups and storm drain labeling events, especially around local waterways - call 513-772-7645 for information.
4. Avoid overuse of fertilizers and pesticides. Test your soils to determine the amount needed and apply only when necessary.
5. Compost yard waste, sweep up grass clippings and tree trimmings from pavement and never dump yard waste along stream banks, over hill sides or into the street.
6. Clean up pet waste from your yard and flush or send it to a garbage landfill. (It can carry harmful bacteria, parasites, and viruses).
7. Store oil, gasoline, antifreeze and other automotive supplies properly. Keep containers tightly sealed.
8. Take old paint, pesticides, automotive fluids, and batteries to a hazardous waste handling facility. Call the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services at 513-946-7777 or visit www.hcdoes.org for more information.
9. Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or on a non paved surface to avoid draining into the storm sewer.
10. Pick up litter whenever you see it.

Polluted storm water can lead to fish kills, destruction of wildlife habitat, loss of aesthetic value, impaired recreational areas and contaminated drinking water resources. Help us keep our waterways clean and clear.



Clockwise from top left: Dry Fork Creek, Maureen Dwyer; Mitchell Memorial Forest, Elizabeth McDaniel; Gardner Park, Vincent Bonomini and Donald Robison; Sharon Woods Park, Carl P. Mills

For more information
please visit our website

www.hamilton-co.org/stormwater/

call 513-946-4250

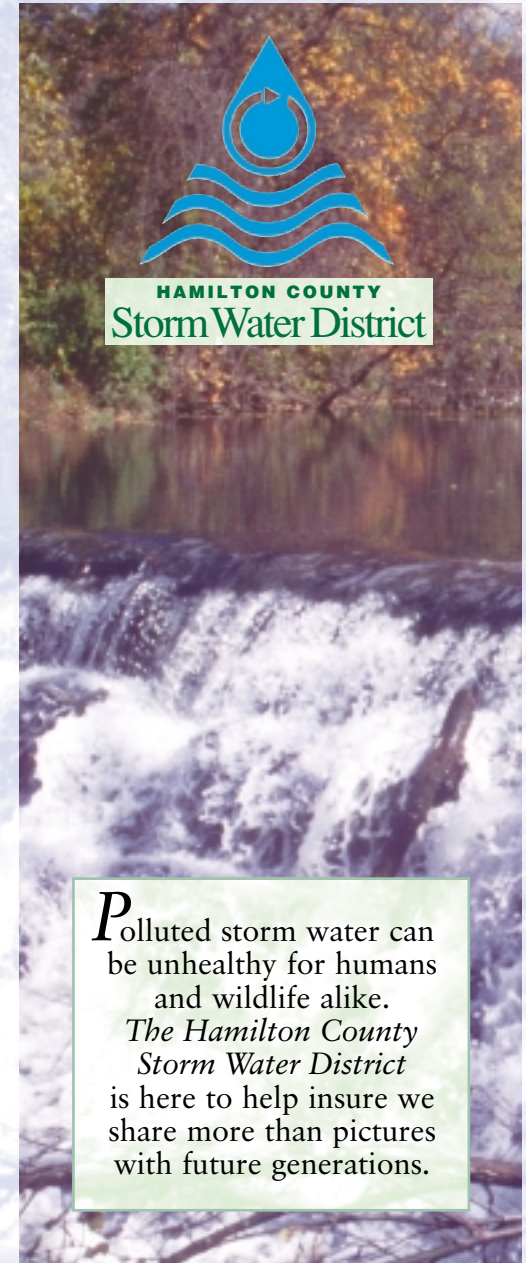
or email Todd Long at

Todd.Long@hamilton-co.org

Hamilton County Storm Water District
County Administration Building,
Room 700



138 East Court Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



Polluted storm water can be unhealthy for humans and wildlife alike. *The Hamilton County Storm Water District* is here to help insure we share more than pictures with future generations.

What are the District functions?

The US EPA NPDES Phase II permit requires six minimum controls:

1. Public Information & Education

Specific focus will be given to community and public awareness on how individual choices and actions affect water quality. Actions will include the development of brochures, creation of a web based library of educational materials on storm water, presentation of information to community groups and adoption of a K-12 educational curriculum and the issuance of public service announcements.

2. Public Involvement & Participation

Establish hotline and complaint database, form a storm water advisory group, coordinate and finance storm drain labeling and watershed signage and support local watershed groups activities.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection

Prepare a countywide map of storm water outfalls/discharge points, enact illicit discharge ordinance, implement a spill detection and reduction plan, prepare a septic system management plan, perform dry weather screening of storm sewers and train local government employees.

4. Construction Site Runoff Control

Develop and enforce erosion and sediment ordinance including site plan review and inspection on land disturbance of one acre or greater area, train local government employees and implement a Best Management Practice (BMP) manual.

5. Post Construction Runoff Control

Prepare a sensitive areas plan and develop ordinances for riparian corridor protection. Implement, inspect and maintain structural and nonstructural BMPs.

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping.

Assist local governments in the development of a maintenance and chemical handling plan.

History

Since the enactment of the original Clean Water Act by Congress in 1972 local and state governments have worked with industries and wastewater treatment plants to reduce pollution loads thus improving the quality of receiving streams. As the end-of-pipe pollution sources improved, however, it became apparent that other types of pollutants were having significant impact on the quality of waterways. These nonpoint pollution sources include agricultural runoff (sediment, fertilizers and pesticides), urban runoff, stream channelization, mining, land disposal and construction site runoff. To address these nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) initiated the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I and Phase II storm water programs.

What is NPS Pollution?

Storm water runoff picks up pollutants from our yards, streets, development sites and agricultural fields and carries them into streams, rivers, and groundwater causing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is responsible for over half of the poor water quality in the United States.

What is the NPDES Phase II Storm water Permit Program?

The Phase II program is the result of a new USEPA rule that required more than 480 local governments across Ohio to apply for a storm water permit by March 10, 2003. These municipalities were selected based on population density criteria.

Why and How was the Hamilton County Storm Water District Formed?

The County Commissioners established a Storm Water District under Ohio Revised Code 6117 to address the

NPDES Phase II regulations and improve storm water quality on a countywide basis. Forty-four of the forty-nine jurisdictions in Hamilton County joined the district for continuity in water quality regulations as well as for the economic benefits associated with group effort.

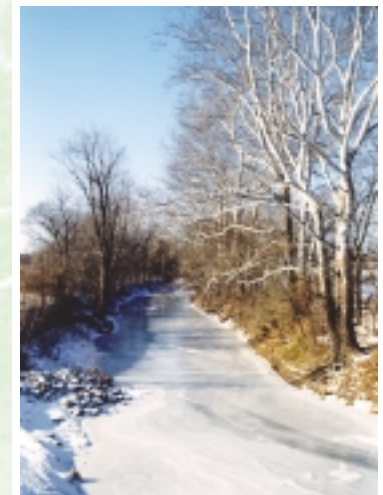
Who is responsible for the Storm Water District?

The Hamilton County Engineer administers the overall management of the Storm Water District on behalf of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Department of Public Works, General Health District and the Metropolitan Sewer District will conduct various aspects of the Phase II program in partnership with member jurisdictions. Members of the Storm Water District have an opportunity to provide input at monthly Oversight Board meetings.

(Please see website for complete member list ... www.hamilton-co.org/stormwater/oversight_board.htm)

What is the cost of joining the District?

A two-year interim charge has been established for each local government participating in the District based on land area and number of parcels. During this period, an equitable cost distribution formula will be developed based upon impervious surface (i.e. driveways, rooftops) impact on storm water quality.



For educational programs and storm drain labeling events call the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District at (513) 772-7645.