

## Use Less Water

A few small changes can conserve water and save money!

- ◆ Install water-saving devices in your home
- ◆ Take shorter showers and use a low-flow shower head
- ◆ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and while washing and rinsing dishes
- ◆ Only use the dishwasher when there is a full load
- ◆ Sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of using a hose
- ◆ Collect rainwater to use when watering the lawn, gardens, and flowerbeds



*For more information, contact:*



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## Protecting Your Watershed



## Things You Can Do To Prevent Water Pollution

Every person living in a watershed makes daily decisions that impact the health and integrity of that watershed. The quality of life of each watershed community is affected by individual actions. Protecting your watershed will help maintain the quality of life of your community for years to come.

## *How Can I Protect the Watershed?*

### Reduce Runoff and Erosion

Slowing the flow of water and keeping soil out of waterways is crucial to the health of the watershed.

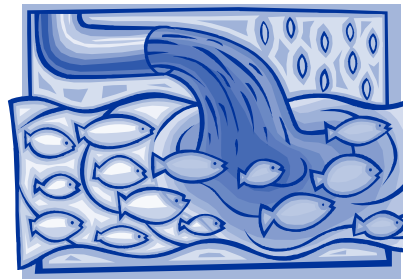
- ◆ Minimize impervious and paved surfaces
- ◆ Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along the edges of waterways
- ◆ Allow runoff from downspouts to soak into the soil
- ◆ Minimize soil disturbance during construction



### Eliminate Stormwater Pollution

#### *What is Stormwater Runoff?*

In open fields, forests, and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, and streets is not absorbed. This precipitation, called stormwater, enters local waterways through storm sewer systems.



Polluted stormwater comes from a variety of sources, including automotive waste, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, paints, and eroded soil. Because this water is untreated, it adversely affects water quality in nearby streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. This contamination damages the ecosystem and threatens the health of the community.

- ◆ Minimize the use of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals. Do not allow these materials to be washed down the storm drains.
- ◆ Dispose of household hazardous wastes and paint products properly. Bring unused materials to a local hazardous waste collection event.
- ◆ Recycle reusable materials and discard trash properly.
- ◆ Collect rainwater and use it to water the lawn and garden. Do not allow roof drainage to flow directly into the storm sewer.
- ◆ Dispose of used motor oil and antifreeze at a local service station or recycling center. Never dump automotive wastes into the storm sewer.
- ◆ Wash your car on the lawn or a grassy area to reduce runoff to the storm sewer.

