

# Storm Water Pollution

State and local governments, volunteer groups, and ordinary people are working to keep our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands clean.

## You Can help!

- Most water pollution is caused by litter tossed out of vehicles or from uncovered truck loads; oil, paint, or chemicals poured down stormdrains; improper disposal of pet waste and poorly maintained septic tanks; or over-fertilizing of lawns and gardens.
- As it flows, storm water collects and transports litter, soil, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, oil, detergents, and other pollutants.
- Storm water runoff drains directly into creeks, streams and rivers without receiving treatment at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Storm water pollution affects water quality and the environment.
- Storm water pollution reduces how much we can use streams, rivers and lakes for fishing, swimming and drinking water.

**1**

Day-to-day activities are major causes of water pollution.

**2**

Parking lots, lawns, and driveways are primary sources of water pollution.

**3**

Rain or melting snow washes pollution into waterways.

**4**

Untreated runoff pollutes waterways.

## Simple Steps You Can Take:

- Carry a litter bag in your car and dispose of litter properly
- Cover truck loads securely
- Dispose of used oil and household chemicals safely
- Pick up pet waste; maintain septic tanks
- Reduce soil erosion by replanting or mulching
- Follow fertilizer directions

**#StormWater**

