

Utica
Spring 2020 Newsletter



Small Actions Make Big Impacts in Your Watershed

Just because you may not live next to a watershed, doesn't mean your actions can't directly impact them. EVERYONE living within a watershed can either have a positive or negative affect on their watersheds, depending on the choices made. A *watershed* is an area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.

Contrary to popular belief, industry causes only about 2% of all pollution entering our rivers and lakes, which means that individuals contribute the majority of pollutants to our waterways, from storm water runoff. Storm water can carry pollutant sources such as fertilizers, detergents, oils, greases, grass clippings and leaves. There are many actions you can take year-round to help protect our waterways.

Become Pro-Active

- Compost yard and kitchen waste.
- Read labels. Use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free dishwashing detergents that are sold commercially.
- Consider using deicing alternatives, which are less corrosive and environmentally friendly.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Be efficient when watering outdoors.
- Use earth-friendly fertilizers.
- Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste properly. A map of disposal sites can be found on Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) website https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3312_4118-70304--,00.html.
- Never dump any yard debris or materials down storm drains.
- Become a member or volunteer your time and efforts to events sponsored of a local environmental stewardship non-profit in your area. A few examples of organizations are Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) 734-927-4900, www.therouge.org, Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) 734-272-0291, www.allianceofrougecommunities.com, and the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) 248-601-0606, www.crwc.org.