

Board of Stark County Commissioners  
Stormwater Education Program -  
330-451-7405  
[www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov](http://www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov)

Stark County Stormwater Public Involvement/  
Public Education (P.I.P.E.) Committee Members

City of Alliance  
City of Canton  
Village of East Canton  
Jackson Township  
Keep Alliance Beautiful  
City of Massillon  
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Plain Township  
Stark County Health Department  
Stark County Park District  
Stark Soil & Water Conservation District  
Stark County Regional Planning Commission

## “It’s Not Too Hard to Clean Up Your Yard”



No one practice can solve all issues related to **stormwater runoff**. The important thing to remember is that every effort helps! Any practices you follow at home will have a positive impact on water quality and will benefit you and the environment.

**Only Rain Down the Drain!**

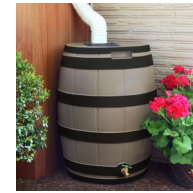
## “It’s Not Too Hard to Clean Up Your Yard”

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer flows untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Only 1% of our water is usable, drinkable water. We can not afford to pollute and contaminate it.



Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard.

Use pesticides sparingly. Fertilize only as needed using natural, organic, or other slow release fertilizers. Do not apply them if it is supposed to rain. Sweep grass clippings, leaves, and dirt back into the yard.



Rain barrels help save money and conserve water. Use the rain water to water your lawn and plants– it’s better for them. It reduces runoff and saves on your water bill.

Fluids in your car can be extremely toxic. Fix leaks so children and pets are not exposed to toxic puddles or toxic fluids that could be ingested. If you change your own oil, use a drip tray and take used oil, filters, and batteries to an automotive store for recycling– most will accept these items. Go to a commercial car wash where the water is treated before going down the drain, reducing potential pollutants. If you wash it yourself, do so on the lawn.



Pick up pet waste from your lawn and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.

**Remember, Only Rain Down the Drain!**

Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.