

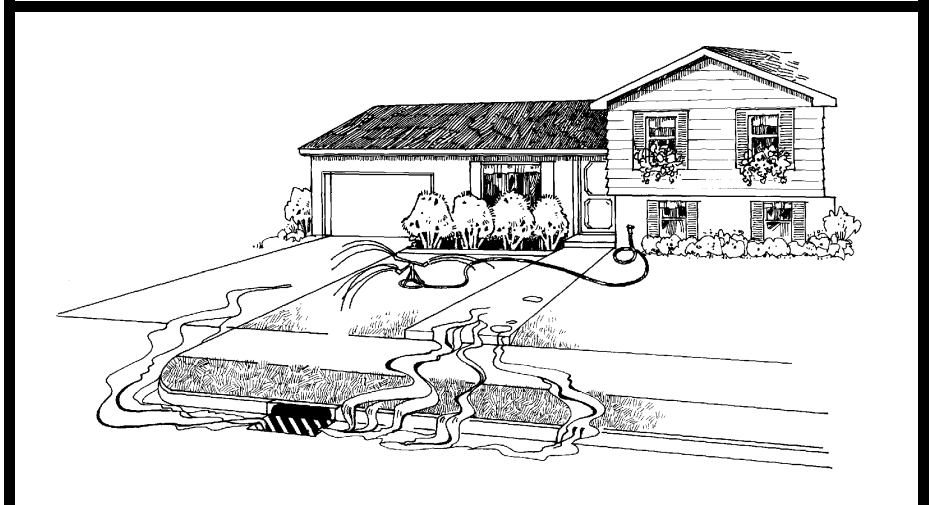


To see how you can make a difference at home and in your community, contact the Clinton River Watershed Council and ask for the complete stormwater tip card series. Or, for more information, visit our website at www.crwc.org.

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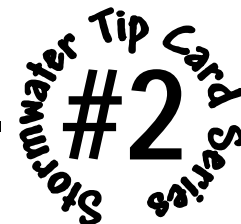


The stormwater tip card series was funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Bear Creek Restoration Project.



A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Care

Using healthy lawn care practices is one step toward cleaner rivers and lakes — even if you don't have waterfront property. For example, a lot of sediment and algae problems can be relieved by keeping lawn clippings out of street catch basins. Instead, sweep them back on your lawn. Clippings are mostly water, and break down quickly to return valuable nutrients to the soil. Local municipalities are doing their part by collecting yard waste or accepting it at drop-off locations. Do your part by preventing the problems at the source!



Create a compost pile!

Outdoor compost piles are a great way to make use of leaves, garden wastes, coffee grounds and produce scraps that might otherwise be thrown out. Within a few months, you'll find rich, earthy fertilizer for your lawn and garden. Well-aged compost (at least six months) also makes excellent potting soil.

Compost piles are easy to make and can be done in a variety of ways. Maybe you'll want to add worms and make a vermipost pile! However you decide to compost, it's good for your yard and for the environment.

How to learn more about composting

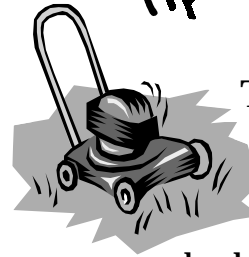
The Southeastern Oakland County Resource Authority (SOCRRA) has a Healthy Lawn and Garden Program for anyone in SE Michigan.

West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) can provide information for West Michigan residents.



Michigan State University Extension also has a lot of information about composting, and has a Master Gardener Program.
6-469-5063

Tips for Mowing



Taller grass means a healthier lawn, and it's easy to take care of! Set your mower blade to leave grass about three inches tall. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water and shades out weed growth. It's also more insect and disease resistant. Vary the direction of lawn mowing periodically to prevent wear patterns and soil compaction.

Tired of raking your leaves? Mow 'em!

Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging — just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. It's an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

Tips for Watering

Excessive watering is wasteful! Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs.

- 15-20 minutes of sprinkling daily is better than a few heavy waterings throughout the week, according to Michigan State University research.
- If daily watering is impractical, 30-40 minutes of watering every other day is sufficient.
- Make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn — not your driveway or sidewalk!

