



## PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS: KEEP ITEMS OUT OF STORM DRAINS

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE & IMPORTANCE OF A STORM DRAIN?



Storm drains are an important feature within your community because during heavy rainstorms, the drains reduce flooding in streets and neighborhoods by transporting large volumes of water into rivers quickly. Filters are not installed in the drains because they would delay the passage of water. Therefore, whatever goes down storm drains will end up in your waterways (rivers, streams, lakes, creeks and oceans).

### TIPS TO PROTECT OUR STORM DRAINS

#### DID YOU KNOW.....

**One quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water—enough water to supply a family of four for one year!**

**STORM DRAINS ARE  
FOR RAINWATER  
ONLY!**



Graphic: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- ✓ Keep garbage out of storm drains. Put litter in trash cans and dispose of toxic substances properly.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose to clean spills.
- ✓ Grass clippings clog storm drains and cause water to back up onto the streets. Sweep clippings back on your lawn.
- ✓ Never fertilize before it rains. When it rains, the fertilizer goes into storm drains and causes problems.
- ✓ Landscape to retain rainwater.
  - Create small berms and depressions in your garden to hold rainwater.
  - Border your lawn with deep-rooted flowers and shrubs that soak up water and reduce runoff.
- ✓ Landscape to prevent soil erosion.
- ✓ Pick up after your pet. Double bag the waste and put it in the trash (if your community allows) or flush it.