

# Stormwater

## **Did you know?**

Urban and rural storm water pollution (also known as nonpoint pollution) is the leading cause of water quality problems in Wisconsin (according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources).

## **What is storm water pollution?**

Stormwater pollution is untreated contaminated water that drains from our local streets into the municipal storm drain system. Anytime it rains or the snow melts, water that doesn't soak into the ground runs into our street curbs, storm sewers, ditches and ponds taking everything in its path, including grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, pet waste, and more.

## **How does it affect me?**

Storm water does not get treated like the water in our bathrooms and kitchens. Instead stormwater and the contaminants it carries, wind up in our rivers and lakes, where bacteria from dog waste contributes to beach closings and phosphorous from fertilizers, grass clippings, and leaves adds to algae blooms.

## **What is Allouez doing?**

**Allouez** is a member of the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC). NEWSC assists member communities in their efforts to meet state and national stormwater regulations and address local stormwater issues. **Allouez** has prepared a storm water management plan to address storm water treatment within the Village to reduce the discharge of suspended solids to the Fox and East Rivers. This plan includes treatment systems for storm water drainage basins in the Village, good street sweeping practices, and collection of leaves to minimize discharge to the river. The Village encourages residents to adopt good storm water management practices including leaving grass clippings on the lawn to reduce fertilizer use, to use low phosphorus fertilizer, to wash cars on the lawn to minimize cleaning soaps from reaching the storm sewer, and properly collecting and disposing of pet wastes.

## **What can I do?**

Some of your everyday actions could be contributing to storm water pollution. Amending your current behaviors and adopting the following actions will assist in protecting our waterways:

- never dump anything down storm drains;
- sweep grass clippings off driveways, sidewalks, and roads onto grass;
- don't guess, do a soil test to see if your lawn needs a fertilizer;
- learn to live with a few weeds and avoid pesticides;
- explore rain gardens for your lawn;
- direct downspouts away from paved surfaces;
- take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway;
- check you car for leaks and recycle motor oil;
- pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste properly

## **Helpful Resources:**

Environmental Protection Agency

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/index.htm>

University of Wisconsin Extension

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/showcat.asp?id=109>

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium

<http://www.newsc.org/>

Center for Watershed Protection

<http://www.cwp.org/>

## **Stormwater Topic Packet Links**

Stormwater and Car Care

<http://www.newsc.org/Topcarwash.pdf>

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/GWQ019.pdf>

Stormwater and Lawn Care

<http://www.newsc.org/Toplawnmow.pdf>

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/GWQ012.PDF>

Stormwater and Weeds and Pesticides

<http://www.newsc.org/Topweedspest.pdf>

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/GWQ002.PDF>

Stormwater and Fertilizer

<http://www.newsc.org/Topfertilizer.pdf>

<http://s142412519.onlinehome.us/uw/pdfs/GWQ002.PDF>

Stormwater and Leaves

<http://www.newsc.org/Topleaves.pdf>

<http://s142412519.onlinehome.us/uw/pdfs/GWQ022.PDF>

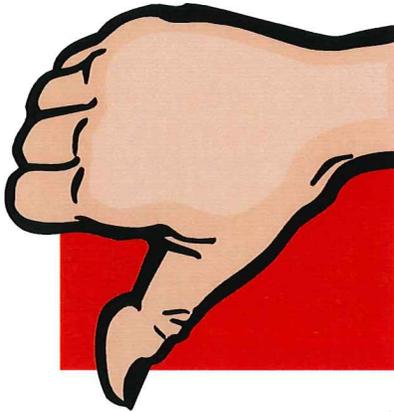
Stormwater and Pet Waste

<http://www.newsc.org/Toppetwaste.pdf>

<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/GWQ006.PDF>

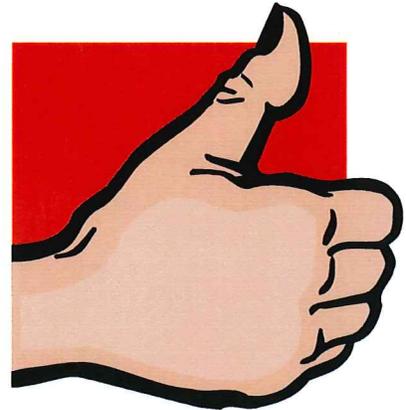
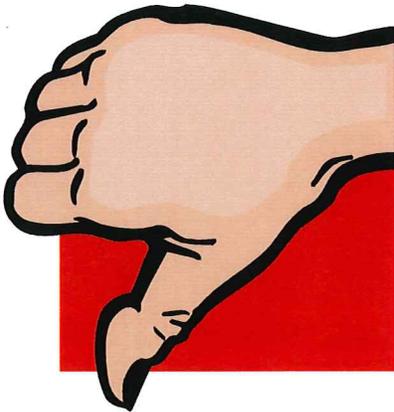
# What Can I Do?

sweep grass clippings off driveways, sidewalks, and roads  
onto grass



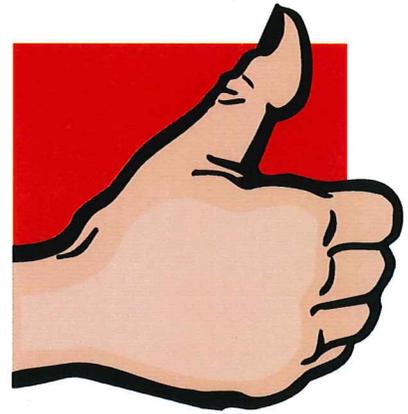
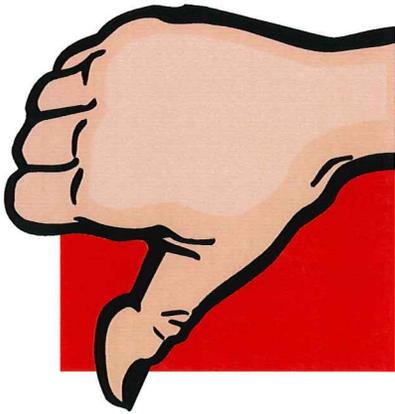
# What Can I Do?

avoid pesticides and weed killers – practice hand-weeding and spot-treating instead



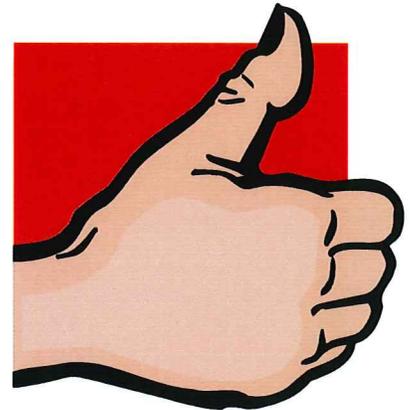
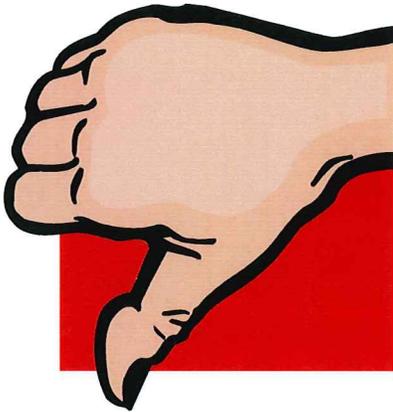
# What Can I Do?

pick up pet waste and dispose properly



# What Can I Do?

limit fertilizer use or use a zero phosphorous fertilizer



On the fertilizer bag the middle number Phosphate should be zero (many soils already contain enough phosphorus for a healthy lawn)