

STORM WATER WORD SEARCH

Almost everyone in Dane County lives on a lake or stream when it comes to “**nonpoint**” or storm water **runoff** pollution. That’s because the distance between your yard and the water’s edge is as close as the nearest **storm drain** or ditch.

Storm water that goes into storm water drainage system is *not* filtered at wastewater **treatment** plants. Rather, it **drains** *directly* into our lakes and streams impacting the **water quality** here in Dane County. In wooded areas and grassy fields, **rain** and melting **snow infiltrate** or soak into the ground, as nature intended. But in urban areas, these “**pervious**” surfaces have been paved over so that rainwater gushes down our sidewalks and roads, carrying dirt, oil, leaves, **fertilizer**, pesticides, grass, **litter** and animal waste into the gutters and storm sewers and ditches.

What can I do?

Whether you like to fish, **boat**, **swim** or **paddle**, there are simple things each of us can do at home and elsewhere, that collectively will help our lakes and streams. Every **drop** counts.

- **Conserve** groundwater by using water from a **rain barrel** for plants instead of from a garden hose.
- Plant a **rain garden** so that water from your downspouts or driveway **infiltrate**, or soak into the ground rather than becoming runoff.
- **Compost** your leaves instead of raking them to the curb or till them into your garden. If you **rake** your **leaves** to the curb, make sure to keep them out of the gutter to keep them out of the lakes. Once in the **water**, they release **nutrients** as they decompose that contribute to the accelerated growth of **algae**. The result is a **green** lake choked with foul smelling, dying plant life that can kill **fish** and other **aquatic** critters and generally make water recreation an unpleasant experience.
- **Sweep** clippings off of pavement and add them to your compost pile.
- Make sure your **car care** activities include preventing and fixing leaks and washing your car on the lawn or at a commercial car wash.
- Volunteer to stencil storm drains with “**Dump No Waste, Drains to Lake**” to remind folks not to let anything but rain go down the drain.

Just as a **river** starts with small springs and streams, protecting watersheds starts with our daily activities, big and small.

The **solution** is simple: to keep it out of the **lakes** and **streams**, we’ve got to keep it out of the **gutter** and ditches.

These words are hiding up and down, backwards, diagonally, and forward.

algae	fertilizer	paddle	storm drain
aquatic	fish	pervious	streams
boat	green	rain	sweep
car care	gutter	rain barrel	swim
compost	infiltrate	rain garden	treatment
conserve	lakes	rake	water
drains	leaves	river	water quality
drains to lake	litter	runoff	
drop	nonpoint	snow	
dump no waste	nutrients	solution	

**MADISON AREA MUNICIPAL STORM WATER PARTNERSHIP
WORD SEARCH**

N	O	N	P	O	I	N	T	A	D	E	R
C	A	R	C	A	R	E	B	D	R	O	P
D	O	M	W	S	W	O	N	S	A	C	T
R	V	N	O	A	A	Z	P	F	I	S	H
A	C	U	S	T	T	E	P	T	N	O	L
I	G	T	N	E	E	E	A	A	S	E	T
N	N	R	I	W	R	U	R	W	A	S	C
S	E	I	S	L	Q	V	E	V	O	H	A
T	D	E	Z	A	U	M	E	L	F	L	N
O	R	N	A	B	A	S	U	V	E	E	R
L	A	T	G	R	L	T	D	L	R	R	D
A	G	S	C	U	I	I	G	I	T	R	U
K	N	I	I	O	T	E	E	T	I	A	M
E	I	W	N	C	Y	T	P	T	L	B	P
A	A	N	F	R	A	K	E	E	I	N	N
I	R	G	I	D	N	I	A	R	Z	I	O
S	T	V	L	A	K	E	S	J	E	A	W
T	E	R	T	A	R	T	E	F	R	R	A
R	L	A	R	G	A	D	R	O	T	L	S
E	D	H	A	P	C	O	M	P	O	S	T
A	D	V	T	O	N	E	E	R	G	M	E
M	A	C	E	P	E	R	V	I	O	U	S
S	P	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T	O
R	U	N	O	F	F	E	S	M	I	W	S