

## **STORM WATER DRAINS DIRECTLY INTO OUR RIVERS AND LAKES**

Contrary to what many people believe, the storm water that goes in the storm drains, including ditches, is **not** treated at wastewater treatment plants. Rather, it drains directly into our lakes and streams.

Rain washes litter, pet wastes, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings off the street pavement into the storm sewer system.

Also the leaves and grass clippings that are placed in the street gutters increase the risk of street flooding by preventing the storm water from entering in the storm water basins or storm sewers.

Here are a few simple things that can help:

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn and out of the street and street gutters
- Clean up pet waste
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use
- Keep leaves out of the street and street gutters
- Sweep, do not wash, paved areas so fertilizers, waste and debris is not deposited in storm sewers
- Keep cars tuned up and in good operating condition
- Recycle used oil