

Rensselaer Stormwater Management Program

Lawn and Garden Care

Protect the Hudson River when you take care of your lawn and garden!

Did you know that whatever runs off your property when it rains might pollute the Hudson River and other water bodies? Rensselaer has a system of storm drains that are designed to collect rain and snow melt and discharge it into our local waters .

Anything besides rainwater and snowmelt that gets into the system may flow in to the Hudson River, the Quackenderry Creek or Mill Creek. Some of the pollutants that end up in our water bodies include pesticides, fertilizers, grass clippings, oil, grease, road salt, and even trash.

These pollutants can cause serious problems, including fish kills, loss of aesthetic value, impaired recreational areas, and contaminated drinking water.

Do your part to protect our water resources every time you maintain your property!

Whatever washes off your yard and into the street will eventually end up in the storm drains. By following these simple guidelines, you can help keep our waters clean.

- Don't hose or blow grass clippings or leaves onto the street. Not only is it illegal for your debris to be on city property, it also pollutes.
- Rake grass clippings and leaves that blow off your property back out of the street and gutter.
- Use fertilizer sparingly and only if necessary.
- If you do use fertilizer, sweep any spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces.
- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. Phosphorus is a particularly harmful pollutant when it gets into water.
- Use organic fertilizers whenever possible.
- Clean up after pets. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria.
- Sweep, don't hose, paved surfaces. If you use a hose, the wash water will carry any oils, silt and other pollutants into the storm sewers.

If you see something, say something!

Water quality is everyone's responsibility. If you see a problem, please report it to the Rensselaer City Police Department at: (518) 462-7451 or send an e-mail to: stormwater@rensselaerny.gov

For more information on Rensselaer's Stormwater Management Plan, visit our webpage: <http://www.rensselaerny.gov/Departments/PlanningBuilding/MunicipalStormwaterManagement.aspx>