TO THINGS YOU GAN DO TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF OUR STREAMS

Citizen Fact Sheet

- Get to know your water shed. It is the water that runs off your property into the streets through catch basins then to storm pipes, or through ditches and even directly into some of our natural water sources. Find out where the water goes and how you can protect it.

- Use a doggie bag when walking your dog. Pick up after your pet at all times and on any circumstances. Clean up your yard of any animal waste and throw it the trash. This is most important if the animal waste is near a street or body of water.

- Try not to use a lot of fertilizers, herbicides, and other pesticides. Use natural pesticides and the minimum amount of fertilizer needed. Use plants that suit the climate and environment.

- When washing your car, wash it on the lawn so that the water can flow into the grass. Do not wash your car where the excess water can flow into the street or storm drain. You can also take your car to a car wash because they treat the wash water used to wash your car. Make sure that your car stays in good condition so it does not drip oil or leak any other fluids

- Do not sweep yard debris into the streets. It is better to collect it and compost it. You can also use gravel to fill holes.

- Never dump paints, chemicals, or motor oils down the sink or toilet or into catch basins, which are storm sewers and rain gutters. Properly dispose of these materials.

- Never dump your trash into rivers, canals, ravines, or creeks. The material that you drop in there can kill fish or block a stream which will cause flooding.

- Make sure not to hose any materials into the street. These materials may find their way into a storm drain.

- Replace the grass on your property with natural plantings. Natural plantings and trees slow water flow. You should also landscape your environment. Doing these things will reduce the need for fertilizer and watering.

- Point to remember: slowing the storm water drain, keeping it off hard surfaces, and allowing it to get through as much soil as possible will improve the quality of our surface and ground waters.