STORMWATER
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Stormwater Matters!

Stormwater is the runoff water after it rains or snows. Stormwater picks up litter, sand, and chemicals as it flows over the land and into storm drains, and it carries these pollutants to our streams, ponds, wetlands and coastal waters.

Simply by putting fewer pollutants on the land, we can help keep stormwater clean. Cleaner stormwater means cleaner water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and protecting wildlife.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Never throw, pour or sweep anything down storm drains.
- Don't litter.
- Maintain your car to prevent fluid leaks.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Use fertilizers and other lawn chemicals sparingly.
- Pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash.
- Support community efforts to keep stormwater clean.

STORMWATER matters

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

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Make the Connection!
Storm Drains empty into Waterways!
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Storm Drains are NOT for Dumping!

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water flowing down a storm drain after a storm? Stormwater, the runoff water after it rains or snows, flows from parking lots and streets into storm drains so that the pavement won't be flooded. Underground pipes then channel the stormwater directly to the nearest waterway, usually with little or no treatment. So whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in a nearby waterway, such as a wetland, stream, pond, or the ocean.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Never dump anything down storm drains – this includes litter, sand, leaves, pet waste, motor oil, or paint.
- Clear sand, leaves, litter, debris, and snow away from storm drains.
- Support municipal efforts to conduct regular street sweeping and catch basin cleaning.
- Participate in a neighborhood cleanup or storm drain marking project.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

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Stormwater Matters!

WOULD YOU WANT TO SWIM IN THIS WATER?
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Where does all the litter go...?

What's going down YOUR storm drain?

When it rains, storm drains collect and channel stormwater runoff to prevent flooding. The stormwater ends up in local waterways, along with any litter, debris and pollutants that were carried by the water as it moved along the surface.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help prevent pollutants from getting into stormwater:

- Don't litter.
- Never throw, pour, or sweep anything into storm drains.
- Recycle paper, plastic, cans and bottles.
- Participate in a neighborhood cleanup day.
- Get involved in water protection issues in your community.

We all need clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and protecting wildlife.

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For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

SPREAD THE WORD:
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Over-feeding
our lawns may also
green our rivers
and ponds!
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Green Lawns Without Green Waters!

Applying more fertilizer than the label recommends or your soil needs won't improve your lawn, and instead the extra fertilizer may wash off into nearby waterways. Just as fertilizer helps plants grow on the land, it encourages algae and other aquatic plants to grow in water. Dense weeds and algae reduce oxygen in the water, which in turn harms fish and other aquatic life. "Green water" is also much less attractive for boating, swimming and other human uses.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Test your lawn soil and calibrate your spreader.
- Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly. Sweep any overspray back onto the lawn.
- Mow 2.5 to 3 inches high with a sharp blade to encourage dense growth and deter weeds.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to lessen the need for fertilizer.
- Never discard yard waste down storm drains or into waterways.
- Water deeply and infrequently, and time watering to avoid evaporation and runoff.
- Reseed bare areas with drought-tolerant varieties of lawn grass.

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For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

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HERE'S THE POOP ON STORMWATER POLLUTION...
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Please Scoop the Poop!

Here's why:

Pet waste can cause environmental and health problems if it isn't disposed of properly.

Stormwater, the runoff water after it rains, may wash pet waste off the ground into ponds, streams or coastal waters, either directly or via storm drains. Pet waste contains germs and nutrients that can be harmful to human health and to our waterways.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Pick up after your pet.
- Dispose of pet waste by flushing it down the toilet or putting it in the trash.
- Never throw pet waste into a storm drain or waterway.

Picking up pet waste is not only good for the environment, it's also courteous and it gives you insight into your pet's health.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

SPREAD THE WORD:
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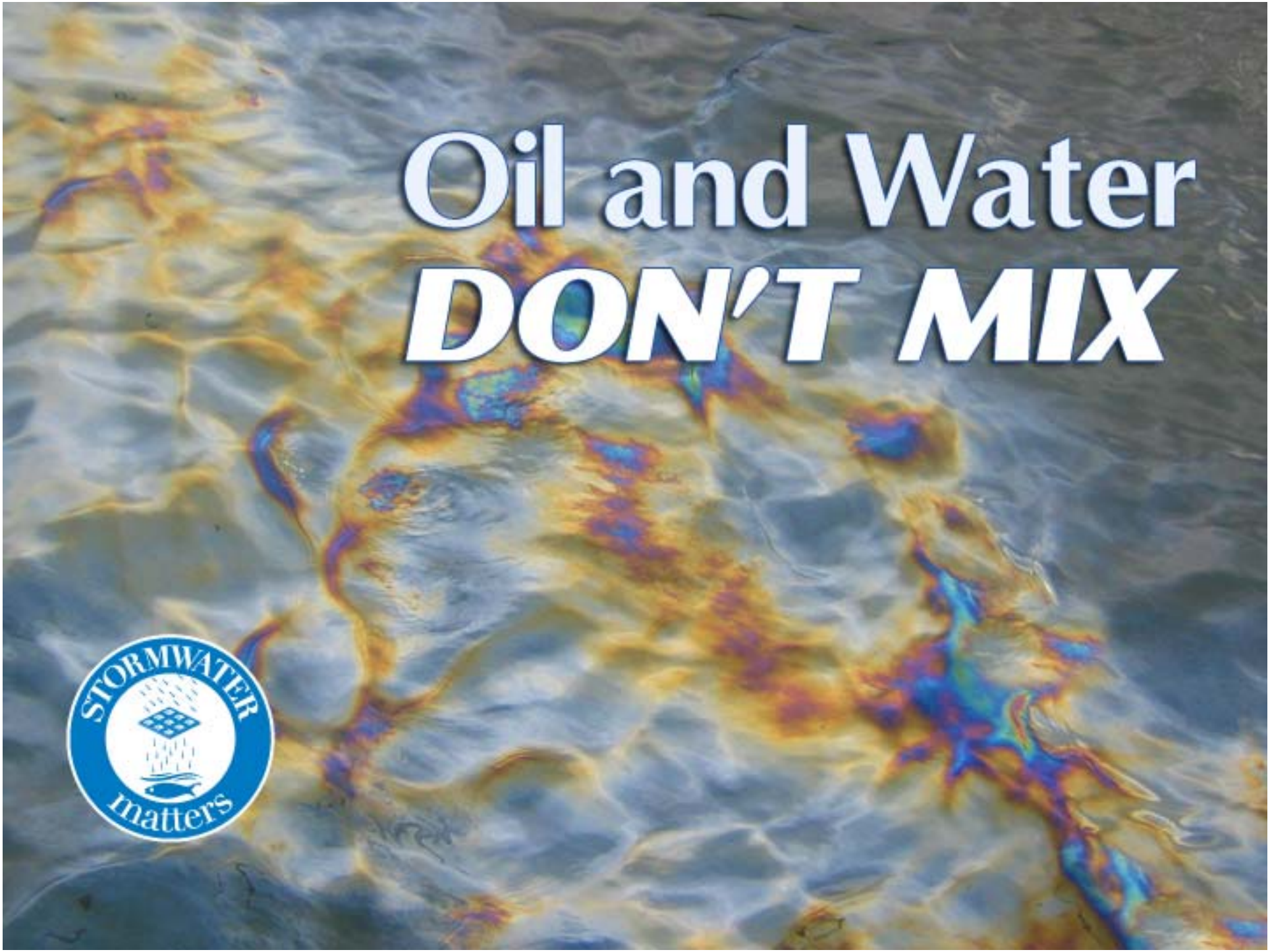
Oil and Water
DON'T MIX
STORMWATER
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Oil and Water Don't Mix!

Did you know that just one quart of motor oil can produce a one-acre oil slick or contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water? When it rains or snows, stormwater may wash any automotive fluids that have dripped onto the pavement into the nearest storm drain and out into a nearby stream, pond, wetland, or coastal waterway.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- Maintain your car regularly to prevent fluid leaks.
- Recycle used motor oil by returning it to the retailer you bought it from, or bringing it to a used oil collection center.
- Clean up spilled automotive fluids with sand or kitty litter and dispose of it properly. Never hose spills into the street or down a storm drain!
- Wash your car where the soap and water can soak into the ground instead of flowing into a storm drain. Better yet, use a commercial carwash that recycles its wash water.

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For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

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Spread the word:
Stormwater Matters!

Rain Barrel Photo Courtesy of the Discovery Museum

Put a LID on stormwater pollution!

Increase recharge, decrease runoff!

Stormwater, the runoff water after it rains or snows, is best managed by directing it to seep into the ground (recharge) rather than allowing it to run off. A new development approach called **L**ow **I**mpact **D**evelopment or **LID** uses design techniques that help to increase recharge and reduce stormwater pollution.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Pictured are a few LID techniques:

Photo courtesy of the Discovery Museum

A rain barrel captures roof runoff so that it can be used later to water gardens and lawns.

A vegetated wetland to which stormwater is diverted so that it can be "cleansed" by wetland plants.

A parking lot with permeable pavement (top) rather than impermeable pavement (bottom) – notice that the top surface has no puddles because the stormwater has soaked down into the pavement!

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Pictured are a few LID techniques:

A sidewalk lined with permeable materials to capture and recharge runoff.

A vegetated swale to which stormwater is diverted so it can slowly seep into the ground.

Many communities are promoting or requiring the use of LID techniques at new building and development sites. By mimicking the flow of stormwater in natural surroundings, LID strategies help to restore stream flows, replenish drinking water wells, and reduce flooding.

For more information, visit our community's website or go to www.stormwatermatters.org.

Rain Barrel Photo Courtesy of the Discovery Museum

Spread the word: Stormwater Matters!