

## Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet,

remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.

Flushing pet waste

is the best disposal method.



## Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.



## Rainwater Harvesting

### Rain Barrels

— Collect rainwater from rooftops in containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.



### Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales

— Specially designed areas with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.



### Vegetated Filter Strips

— Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.



## Be Part of the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

*A Resident's Guide to Promoting a Healthy Watershed*



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## Why care about a healthy watershed?

**Watershed** is an area of land that drains into a common water body such as a stream, river, lake, or ocean; also referred to as a drainage basin or catchment area.



Whether we realize it or not, we ALL live in a watershed. In urban areas it can be hard to tell where a watershed is because most water is carried to local streams or rivers through underground pipes.

These water bodies supply our drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, offer opportunities for recreation and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals. Unfortunately various forms of pollution, including runoff and erosion, can interfere with the health of the watershed. Therefore, it is important to protect the quality of our watershed.

## What is stormwater runoff?



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground.

Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

## Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream,

river, wetland, or coastal water.

Anything that enters



a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

## So what can I do?

### Lawn care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns wash off and pollute streams. Yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and carry nutrients to streams. Don't overwater your lawn. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is needed, use in the recommended amounts. Compost or mulch yard waste.



### Get Involved

Participate in the Town's Adopt-A-Stream and Storm Drainage Stenciling programs. There are no better caregivers for the streams and creeks of Fort Mill than the citizens. Volunteering can be rewarding

