

Storm Drains are not Filtered

Water from storm drains leads directly to local streams and rivers.

This means that pollutants which enter the storm drains go straight through without any filtration.

In order to avoid polluting this water, be sure to spread fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides lightly. This will prevent excess fertilizer from entering storm drains.



Also, be sure to use phosphorous-free fertilizers. (As of January 1, 2012, phosphorous is banned from most fertilizers.)

Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides during a rain event or if rain is forecasted within a day or two, and be sure not to spread any on driveways or sidewalks.

For More Information

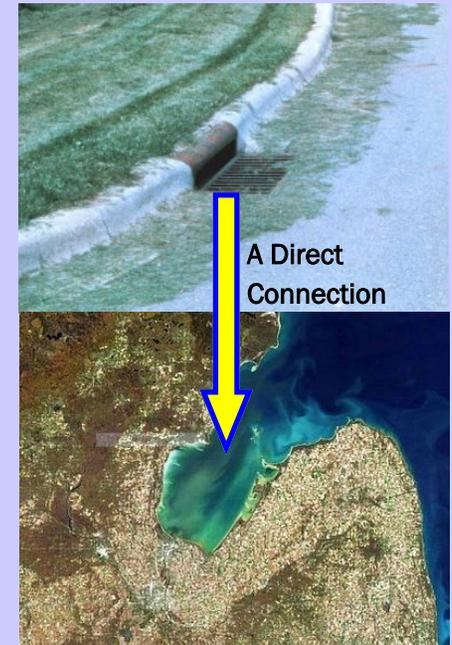
Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA)

Website: <http://www.saswa.org/>



Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA)

Lawn/Vegetation Management to Protect Storm Water Quality



Do your "Bit for the Bay."
Protect our Water Resources

<http://www.saswa.org>



Lawn/Vegetation Management

Structures to be Aware Of

When working with vegetation, be aware of the following structures. Do not place lawn waste materials near or direct toward them.

- Catch Basins
- Inlet structures
- Detention Basins
 - Wet
 - Dry



Catch Basin



Wet Detention Basin



Dry Detention Basin

The Problem With Vegetation and Storm Drains

- Grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae! One bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain 0.1 lbs of phosphorus—**enough to produce 30-50 pounds of algae growth if it finds its way to a lake or river!**
- Storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants. Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes! The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding.
- Dumping grass clippings into county drains can create WATER QUALITY problems such as:
 - **Using up all the oxygen** in the water
 - **Kill** fish and other beneficial aquatic life
 - **Cause erosion** on stream or drain banks



Yard waste flowing into a storm drain

How to Avoid Polluting Storm Drains

- Plan cuts. Be sure mower discharge is aimed into the yard, not the street.
- When cleaning up, be sure to blow excess clippings into the yard, not the street.
- Use a mulching lawn mower and return the clippings to the yard. This will significantly reduce the amount of fertilizers needed,
- If you do bag clippings, dispose of them properly. Take them to a compost center; do not dump them in a ditch or drain.



Do not allow mowers or blowers to discharge into the street.