

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

When it Rains...It Drains

Storm water is not treated and is not cleaned before it flows into our local creeks, rivers, and lakes. When dirty water goes into a storm drain, it stays that way. Here are some simple ways you can help reduce storm water pollution and keep our water supply clean.

- Never dump anything down storm drains.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Use pesticides and slow-release fertilizers properly. Use non-toxic alternatives.
- Wash your car at a car wash.
- Sweep up grass clippings and all litter from driveways and sidewalks.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Clean Water Act, passed by Congress in 1972, included requirements for improved water quality, to include storm water. Initially the EPA concentrated their efforts on point sources, such as releases from sewage treatment plants and industrial plants. At the time, these were the greatest source of water pollution. Environmental groups requested the EPA to also pursue non-point sources of pollution such as storm water runoff. Apparently the EPA did not respond as expected and eventually environmental groups successfully sued the Federal EPA. Congress then became involved and passed the Water Quality Act in 1988, which required a two-phased approach to address storm water quality. Phase I was implemented in 1990 in urban areas with populations greater than 100,000, such as Dayton. Phase II was implemented in 2003 for all other urbanized areas as defined by the Census Bureau. The Ohio EPA designated each jurisdiction in the state that was required to conform to each phase. They required those jurisdictions to obtain a permit to release storm water to the waters of the state. The permit, entitled "**General Permit For Discharge Of Storm Water From Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems**", required each jurisdiction to develop a Storm Water Management Program.

Montgomery County obtained a Phase II permit, developed a Storm Water Management Program and worked with Harrison, Jefferson, Miami, Washington and Butler Townships to develop their plans. Miami Conservancy also assisted these efforts.

The permit required each jurisdiction to address six minimum control measures in their program.

- 1) Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts
- 2) Public Involvement/Participation
- 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- 4) Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control (Ohio EPA issued a separate permit to regulate this source of water pollution)
- 5) Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment
- 6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Annual reports to the Ohio EPA were required in order to track progress of compliance with the permit requirements. In March 2007 an Ohio EPA representative audited the Montgomery County Storm Water Management Program and later issued a report. The summary in the report stated:

“... [Montgomery County] is doing a reasonable job with implementation of its storm water management program.”

The storm water permit issued by the Ohio EPA had a five year life. The first permit expired in December 2007 and a draft version of the second permit was distributed for comments in early 2008.

After extensive reviews and revisions the Ohio EPA issued the second permit on January 30, 2009. Each jurisdiction received a letter notifying them a new permit had been issued and they are required to prepare a new Storm Water Management Program that conforms to the permit requirements. The new program will be in effect for the five year life of the current permit.