

# TODD CREEK VILLAGE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT



*Proud to be your area water provider*

## Protecting Water Sources—Part 2

Anything that washes down a storm drain makes its way directly to streams and other bodies of water. In essence, storm drains are the gateway to our vital water sources. Runoff from driveways/sidewalks around homes are huge contributors to water pollution. Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine can form an eight-acre oil slick—bigger than a city block? Additionally, your home's landscape can either help prevent water quality problems, or it can contribute to them.

By making a conscious effort to make better choices in our daily lives, we have the ability to decrease the human impact that results in the need for more extensive and costly water treatment. Here are some ways we can all help lessen our impact and lower the chances of degrading our water quality:

- ◆ Wash your car at a commercial car wash instead of your driveway—commercial car washes recycle some of the wastewater so less flows down through the storm drains. They also pre-clean the wastewater before dumping it into the sewage system.
- ◆ Properly dispose of any toxic chemicals or products, pet waste, and fluids that may drip from your car, rather than wash them down the storm drain.
- ◆ Eliminate the use of chemical de-icing salts, opting for something more environmentally friendly instead.

We can utilize more beneficial landscape practices which also cut down on maintenance costs and work:

- ◆ Use planting beds or ground covers to reduce the amount of area in high-maintenance turf and concrete surfaces. Mulched planting beds and ground cover can be maintained with fewer pesticides and less water than high-maintenance turf.
- ◆ Compost leaves and other yard wastes.
- ◆ Select native and Xeriscape plants that require less water and fertilizer, and fewer pesticides as well.
- ◆ Replace turf grass in inappropriate areas like dense shade, steep slopes or hard-to-water places. Instead, plant hardy ground covers or ornamental grasses.
- ◆ Establish a ground cover or mulch on all bare soil areas to prevent run-off.
- ◆ Install water-efficient sprinkler systems which are directed away from paved surfaces.
- ◆ Establish a chemical free buffer strip of dense vegetation next to any watercourse, stream, or lake bordering your property.
- ◆ Use organic mulches, such as wood chips, in flowerbeds to reduce weeds and conserve water.

Public awareness about water quality needs to start at home, in our own yards and neighborhoods. It's in everyone's best interest to work together to preserve our vital water resources.

***Transparency Notice: Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend.***



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