

Dear Local Business Owner,

We need your help! In accordance with the City of Des Plaines' National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, we are asking local businesses to do their part in **reducing the amount of polluted stormwater** that enters our waterways. Stormwater is the water that runs off into our storm drain system after rain or melting snow. The water flows over roadways, lawns, roofs and parking lots, carrying with it many pollutants such as debris, chemicals, oil and grease, fertilizers and pesticides, toxic metals and more. Urban runoff in our stormwater degrades the water quality of local lakes and waterways like the Des Plaines River, threatening our health and damaging fragile ecosystems.

The City is trying to reduce its stormwater impacts by asking all of its businesses to adopt small but significant stormwater-conscious practices. **Here are some easy ways to run a stormwater-friendly business:**

- **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris, litter, and leaves. During a storm, litter clogs storm drains and ends up in our rivers and lakes.
- **Never hose spills** or trash into the drains. Clean spills immediately to prevent hazardous materials from entering storm runoff and train staff members to use a spill kit.
- **Never dump** anything but clean water into a storm drain. Prevent wash waters and wastes, such as used oil, grease, and chemicals from entering the storm drain system.
- **Report any hazardous spills** or any illegal dumping to the City via 9-1-1.
- **Cover materials safely**, including grease storage and dumpsters. Don't overfill and keep the lid closed. Double up on containment measures of hazardous materials when possible.
- **Do not store** fertilizers, pesticides, or de-icers outside.
- **Use nontoxic**, biodegradable, and recyclable alternatives to chemicals whenever possible.

Finally, you can improve water quality by helping us spread the word: stormwater matters!

To learn more about the City's stormwater pollution prevention efforts, please visit the NPDES page of the City's website at www.desplaines.org/npdes.

