

# Things You Can Do to Protect Water Quality in Your Watershed

You can do many things that can protect water quality! When it rains or the snow and ice melts, the water (called stormwater) drains off streets, driveways, rooftops and lawns into lakes and rivers without treatment. As it travels across the landscape, it picks up various pollutants like bacteria, oils, nutrients, fertilizers and sediment. Impervious surfaces, such as pavement, speed up the flow of stormwater runoff from the landscape and prevent water from soaking into the ground where it can be naturally cleansed by microorganisms that live in the soil. Many pollutants also reach our waterways from soil erosion because many chemicals readily attach themselves to soil particles. Contaminated runoff, known as non-point source pollution, comes from many different sources and is difficult to trace back to one source on the landscape. Contaminated runoff flows without treatment into the nearest stormwater drainage system. This may consist of simple drainage ditches or infrastructure such as enclosed pipes, outfalls, catch basins and detention ponds. If you live on a river, lake or stream, this runoff travels into the water much more quickly.

Below are some things you can do at home, in your yard, with your vehicles, in your community and at your business to reduce the amount of pollution being picked up by stormwater and going into the Rouge River.

## THINGS TO DO IN THE SPRING



Use your local car wash because washing your car at home sends the road salt, oil and other pollutants to the storm drain which end up in the Rouge River.

Use a broom to sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back onto your yard so it doesn't wash into the storm drain and the Rouge River.

Don't feed the geese because the concentration of droppings adds excess nutrients and harmful bacteria to the Rouge River.

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Install a rain garden which traps and filter sediment and pollution and naturally cleans the water before it re has the Rouge River. Install a rain barrel to capture rainwater for your garden or disconnect downspouts and direct them into gardens.

Pick up after your pet to prevent the bacteria from washing into drainage ditches and storm drains and straight to the Rouge River. Plant Michigan native plants to slow runoff and provide added filtration before entering the Rouge River. Don't which lead to the Rouge River, instead recycle them at a household hazardous waste collection event.

HHW Info: [Wayne Co.](#) / [Oakland Co.](#) / [Washtenaw Co.](#) / [Macomb Co.](#) / [St. Clair Co.](#)

**PLASTIC OCEANS** **Friends of the ROUGE**

**The Erie Situation (2021)**  
Not Rated  
Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m.  
POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION

**WALL-E (2008)**  
Rated G  
Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.  
Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, March 24 at 5 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Come join us in celebrating World Water Day at the Penn Theatre!

The Penn Theatre is showing free screenings of The Erie Situation (2021) and Wall-E (2008) in collaboration with Friends of the Rouge and Plastic Oceans.

Come join us Thursday March 21 at 7 p.m. for The Erie Situation and for a post-screening discussion.

The Penn will also be offering free admission to screenings of Wall-E at the following times:

Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 at 5 p.m.

Representatives from Friends at the Rouge team will be at all four screenings. We hope to see you there.



2024 Frog & Toad Group Listen

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Heritage Park Nature Center  
24915 Farmington Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

[\*\*REGISTER FOR GROUP LISTEN\*\*](#)