

Water (and all that goes with it) enters a road drain and will end up in a river near you!

What is a storm drain?

A storm drain is a system of piping under the road that takes water runoff to the closest body of water (either a man made water storing area, or a natural stream or river).

What can be done to prevent river pollution from drains?

- » Pick up pet waste
- » Only irrigate lawn as need
- » Use fertilizer as directed
- » Dispose of chemical and hazardous waste properly

Studies show that **pet waste** accounts for over 20% of the contamination in our lakes and rivers.

86% of people surveyed disapprove of people who don't pick up after their pets, characterizing "them" as inconsiderate and irresponsible.

Surveys indicate that about 50% of dog owners walk their dogs. Of those who walk their dogs, only 60% pick up after their pets.

So... why don't we pick up after our pets?

The Ingham Conservation District received a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality to monitor E. coli levels in several tributaries in the Red Cedar watershed. The Red Cedar Watershed Monitoring Project has been funded in part by the Michigan DEQ's Clean Michigan Initiative under project #2012-0513.

To learn more about this project and the Ingham Conservation District's involvement in this project, contact our office.

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Contact us at
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or on the web at www.inghamconservation.com

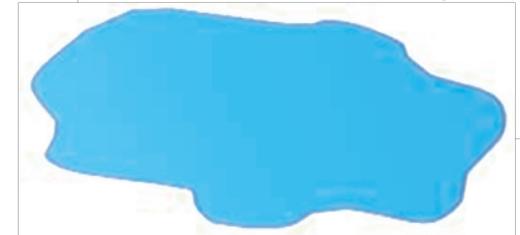
A special thanks to our partners:



1031 W. Dexter Trail
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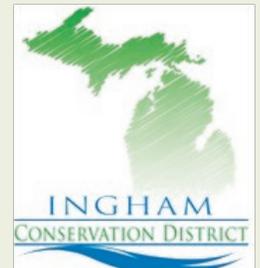


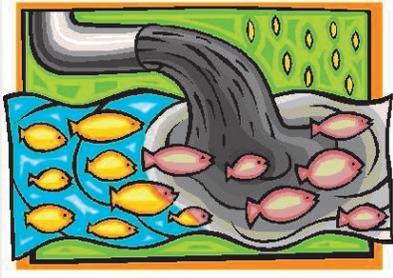
Our Water Quality Needs Your HELP!



Do you know where this water will end up?

"Serving, educating and empowering our community for natural resources stewardship."





Know the facts

E.coli, a bacteria found in feces, has been found in high levels within the Red Cedar Watershed. *E.coli* can be from several sources, including failing septic systems, agriculture runoff, livestock runoff, and pet waste.

Most strains of the bacteria are harmless, however some can be harmful and can cause a variety of intestinal illnesses. Michigan's water quality standard requires less than 130 *E.coli* colonies per 100mL of water, as an average, or less than 300 *E.coli* in any one sample. Several samples taken within the Red Cedar Watershed exceeded concentrations of 10,000/100mL.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices are actions that can be taken to help reduce pollution

Pet Waste >>>

While it can be embarrassing, gross, or simply a hassle to deal with, picking up after our pets will aid in decreasing *E.coli* counts by up to 20% (according to studies conducted in the Northwest and Chesapeake Bay). Yes, the dog waste will eventually "disappear," but where it disappears to is the stream near you after a rain.



Landscape Care >>>

When a lawn is over watered, the runoff goes into the road and then into the storm drain, which ends up in a stream. The water carries with it the chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides that were on the lawn. By limiting irrigation, and following fertilizer use directions, we can reduce law runoff contamination.



Disposing of hazardous waste >>>

Check with the Ingham County Health Department for information on materials collected and the dates of collection. Their website is:

hd.ingham.org



A cleaner river starts with the little things...

Together we can do the little things and reduce *E.coli* levels in the Red Cedar Watershed.

