

A Note to Farmington Hills' Residents

Almost every drop of water that falls on the ground anywhere in Farmington Hills will eventually end up in the Rouge River. This includes the rain, the sprinklers, the sump pump outlets, the street catch basins, and the parking lot and driveway runoff. Along the way, these drops of water pick up and mix with anything they run across, like lawn chemicals, oil from cars, animal droppings, eroded soil from bare spots, failing septic systems, and debris on the ground. The end result is pollution in the Rouge River and all of its tributaries, including the little streams, creeks and roadside swales all throughout Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills, as well as most of our neighboring communities whose drainage also flows into the Rouge River, is cooperating in a unique effort to clean up and protect our watercourses. We are among the first in the State to be granted a General Storm Water Permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. This permit gives communities the ability to work together to help clean our rivers and streams. It will also help us solve problems in a reasonable and cost effective manner while reducing the possibility of expensive Federal sanctions in the next few years.

This is the beginning...in the future you will see more emphasis being placed on keeping our water clean. Look for new information, programs and policies as we begin to focus on our watercourses as a major quality of life resource that must be protected and improved. Remember that we all have waterfront property since we're all part of the same water system.

Sincerely, The Farmington Hills Department of Public Services





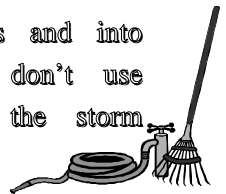
"Don't Live Next to the Rouge River, So How Do I Pollute the River?"

Many types of pollutants are found in urbanized river systems like the Rouge River and more than one-third of this pollution is due to storm water runoff. As rain flows over all the land area of Farmington Hills it picks up eroded soil, trash, fertilizers, pesticides and automobile fluids. These pollutants flow from all our streets, sidewalks and driveways through our storm water drains and eventually into the Rouge River.

"So what can I do to help?"

Here are just a few of the many simple things that all residents can do to minimize contaminants in our water.

- **NEVER** discard hazardous household, yard or automotive products down storm drains or sinks. Call the DPW at (248) 553-8580 for household hazardous waste guidelines.
- **Recycle used oil and antifreeze** at a local oil change location, never down a storm drain. Check with your regional recycling authority (RRRASOC) for current locations (248) 208-2270.
- **Take leftover hazardous materials** to any of the regional household hazardous waste collection days. Check your city newsletter, local cable channel, or call the DPW for the dates, time and locations.
- **Pick up after your dog.** Pet waste left on the pavement washes down through the storm drains and into the Rouge, adding hazardous bacteria. And don't use your hose as a broom to push debris into the storm drains.
- **Don't feed the geese or ducks.** Our City naturalist, Joe Derek says that feeding waterfowl creates a dependency on humans for their food supply, unnaturally increases the flock's population, and even disrupts their migration patterns. Waterfowl droppings are a major pollutant to the Rouge River. Talk to your children and explain why feeding isn't allowed.



When It Comes to Pollution, Every Home is Waterfront Property!



- Over the past five years, municipal sewer improvements and stormwater retention projects have done a lot to clean up the Rouge River and its tributaries here in Farmington Hills.
- **But the clean up is not done yet!** Each of us must be aware of how our day-to-day actions—like lawn care, pet care, or auto repairs—contribute to storm water pollution.
- **There are many benefits** to a restored Rouge River, including:
 - Canoeing and fishing along the river
 - Improved aesthetics in the area
 - A safe place for your children and grandchildren to discover and explore and
 - Potential rise in property values
- **Government, industry and individuals** need to work together in the restoration process. You are an important part of “repairing the Rouge”! Take just one idea from this pamphlet, make a change, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- **Don’t just read about the problem, “get your feet wet” and change your “housekeeping” practices.**

