



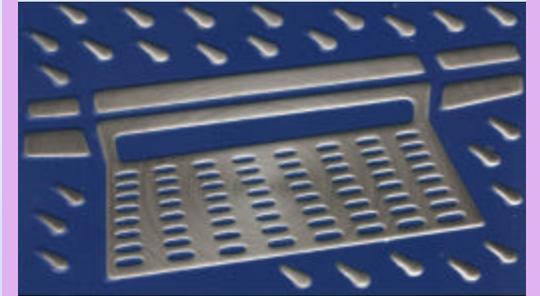
Something new in the neighborhood:
“Only Rain Down the Drain” markers.
Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. Each time it rains, cigarette butts, litter, pet waste, motor oil, anti-freeze, lawn chemicals and other pollutants reach local waterways through storm drains. Known as non-point source pollution, it is the largest threat to our waterways today. This pollution is discharged, untreated, into the waterbodies that we use for swimming, fishing and for providing drinking water.

“Only Rain Down the Drain” alerts the neighborhood about a pollution problem that can be corrected primarily through public education and lets everyone know that the only thing that should be entering the storm drain is WATER.



*If you are interested in finding out more about non-point source pollution and other litter prevention programs, please call the Galloway Township Department of Community Education / Clean Communities Program at 652-9265.
bfiedler@gallowaytwp-nj.gov*

ONLY RAIN



DOWN THE DRAIN



PLEASE HELP!

 Do not litter! Place all debris in receptacles; make sure that all recyclables are placed in recycling receptacles. Participate in community cleanups.

 Cigarette butts and gum should be disposed of properly; either in the trash or a portable cigarette disposal pouch.

FACT: 34,215 cigarette filters, the #1 litter item, were cleaned from New Jersey's beaches in just six hours during the 2002 Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps. Cigarette filters are synthetic and do not break down. They are eaten by birds and fish, which mistake them for food, causing harm.*

 Pick up after your pets. Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems. Galloway Township is in the process of adopting a State-mandated law that requires pet owners to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste from any public or private property other than their own. Many public areas now have bag dispensers for pet waste collection.

 Keep leaves, grass, yard debris and street sweepings out of storm drains. Compost the yard debris whenever possible and use a mulching mower that will leave grass clippings on the lawn (this practice is GOOD for the lawn). If putting out leaves for our municipal collection, make sure that you follow the proper schedule and either bag the leaves or pile them as far as possible away from any storm drain.

 Eliminate or minimize the use of toxic pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers on your lawn. Make sure that your lawn is aerated (through the use of compost and aeration devices) to avoid run off of compacted soils. Use native vegetation whenever possible (requires little or no fertilization) and let portions of your yard return to or stay in a natural state. If you do have pesticides and fertilizers to dispose of, hold them for Household Hazardous Waste Collections that are done three times a year by ACUA. **Dates for 2005 are: May 21st at ACUA, September 24th at Hammon-ton Public Works, and October 22 in Mays Landing.

 Never use the storm drain for disposal of hazardous materials such as motor oil, antifreeze, paints, cleaning products, insecticides, moth balls, paint thinners and chemicals. Motor oil, antifreeze and paint can be recycled on the first Saturday of the month at ACUA between 9AM-noon. Toxics that can't be recycled should be stored properly (according to their labels) and disposed of through Household Hazardous Waste Collections. (See ** above.) Best of all: research and use non-toxic alternatives for cleaning and insect control.

FACT: Every eight months 10.9 million gallons of petroleum are discarded in storm drains, waterways, and soil in North America. Carried by streams and storm drains to the sea, this amount of oil pollution equals the Exxon Valdez oil spill. More than half this oil pollution occurs along the east coast from Virginia to Maine.*

*FACTS Courtesy of the Clean Ocean Action website www.cleanoceanaction.org

 Use a commercial car wash for washing your car. These facilities, by law, have closed systems for their detergents and therefore will not allow run-off into storm drains and groundwater. If you must wash the car at home, use non-phosphate detergent.



A GTMS student participated in a civics project to mark the storm drains around the municipal complex drive.

 Do not feed wildlife, such as geese and ducks, in public areas.

 If you have a septic system, have it inspected annually and pumped out as needed (usually every 3-4 years). An improperly working septic system can contaminate ground water and create public health problems. Do not add grease or household hazardous products to your septic system.

 Boat owners should always use marine sanitation devices and pump-out facilities at marinas and camper owners should use proper sanitation facilities at public or private campgrounds. Do not put any sewage from boats or campers into storm drains or into any body of water. Such practices introduce bacteria and viruses into the water.