

# WHEN IT RAINS, HANCOCK COUNTY DRAINS

## 10 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STOP POLLUTION OF OUR SUGAR CREEK WATERSHED



1. Recycle your used motor oil. Check out the Hancock County Garage on Osage Street and your local Oil Change services; they accept used oil, but there might be a fee. The county garage will also take your used antifreeze. **Never dump oil or antifreeze down the storm drain which flows into the creeks or rivers.**



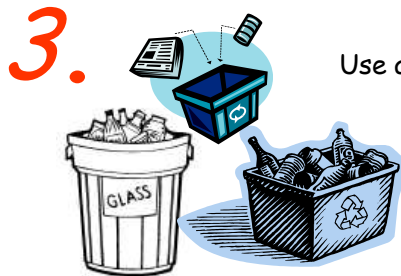
6. Choose water-based paints such as latex. Wash brushes in your sink with water. If using paint thinner, reuse and recycle it. Solidified paint can be disposed of in regular household waste. **Don't pour any paint or toxic material down the storm drain.**



2. Reduce auto emissions through regular auto maintenance, ride sharing, and use of public transportation. Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks in your car. **Don't let your car leave ugly oil slicks behind.**



7. Use pesticides and other lawn chemicals sparingly. Never double the dose! **Follow the directions and do not apply if rain is forecasted.**



3. Use a garbage can for your trash. Recycle reusable materials. **Don't put trash and litter in the street; it may be washed to the river.**



8. Go to a car wash or wash your car in the grass. **Don't wash that grimy road dirt and chemical cleaners down the drive and into the storm drain.**



4. Sweep the dirt from your walk or driveway back into the yard with your broom. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. **Hosing dirt and pet waste away can send it into the drainage system and directly to the creeks & rivers.**



9. Pick up and properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile with yard waste. **Never use streams or gutters to dispose of yard waste.**



5. Dispose of any hazardous home chemicals at approved household hazardous waste collection sites. A listing of sites and assistance is available through the Hancock Co. Solid Waste Management District at 317-462-7605. **Use the least toxic products available in your home and garden.**



10. **Maintain your septic system.** Have it pumped out every 3 years to remove sludge and scum. Do not use tank additives, and practice water conservation to prevent overworking your system. **Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems.**

**EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. SPREAD THE WORD. WATER POLLUTION IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM; WATER QUALITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

For more information: Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District 317-462-2283 Ext. 3