

STORMWATER

CITIZENS HAVE POWER

We can all make a difference in preserving and restoring the Rouge River. There are many misconceptions that industry is solely responsible for pollution to our rivers. That's not true. Things that we do every day are large contributors to a polluted stream. For example, every time oil or antifreeze is dumped down a storm-drain we are polluting the river.

POLLUTED STORMWATER

But there is more to it than that. Pollution also comes from polluted storm water runoff that enters the storm sewers during a rainstorm or snow melt. This storm water picks up pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil and grease from cars and bacteria from pet wastes. Remember, water that enters storm drains directly discharges to the Rouge River.

BLOCKING STORM SEWERS

However, this doesn't mean we have to block our storm sewers and not let any water enter them. After all, we have storm sewers to reduce flooding. What we can do is make some small changes in our daily habits to reduce the amount of pollution reaching the river.