

When It Rains?

Imagine no longer being able to fish, swim or wade through your favorite stream, river or lake. It might surprise you, but many waters in our area are degraded due to polluted stormwater runoff.

Each time it rains, the resulting runoff of stormwater picks up debris such as litter, pesticides, chemicals, fertilizers, motor oil and dirt as it flows across rooftops and lawns, streets and parking lots. The pollutants are deposited, untreated, into our waterways. Increased runoff from developing areas can also cause flooding and erosion of stream banks, which creates even more sediment entering our streams and waterways.

The City of Dacula has several ordinances that address these concerns, including a property maintenance ordinance and an erosion and sedimentation ordinance. These along, with strict development regulations, help limit the potential damage of stormwater runoff. Even with these strict measures, more needs to be done. As the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division pass down increasingly stringent and costly regulations, counties and municipalities will have to rely more and more on citizen help to meet these regulations.

Ten Ways You Can Help

- Never dump anything down a storm drain or fill up a drainage ditch.
- Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids.
- Throw litter in its place.
- Clean up after your pets.
- Repair vehicle leaks.
- Dispose of hazardous wastes at designated locations.
- Compost yard clippings.
- Use fertilizer and pesticides only when needed. Consider several lighter applications.
- Wash you car at home on the lawn, not on the driveway.
- Keep curb and gutter adjacent to your property lines clean and free of debris.

For additional information about stormwater and pollutants and how you can help visit the Clean Water Campaign web site at www.cleanwatercampaign.com.