

# Lawn & Garden Care

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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## **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

*BMPs are procedures and practices that help to prevent pollutants such as dirt, chemicals, trash, metal, pet waste, automotive fluids, and other hazardous materials from entering the storm sewer system.*

*YOU can help keep stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River clean by applying the following tips:*

- **Do not blow or rake grass clippings, leaves or other yard waste into the street or gutter.**
- **Leave mulched grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer.**
- **Recycle yard waste or start your own compost pile.**
- **Don't over irrigate. Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray system and water early in the morning.**
- **If you have a spray head sprinkler system, consider adjusting your watering method to a cycle and soak. Instead of watering for 15 minutes straight, break up the session into 5-minute intervals allowing water to soak in before the next application.**
- **Keep irrigation systems well maintained and water only when needed to save money and prevent overwatering.**
- **Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorous free.**
- **Have your soil tested to determine the nutrients needed to maintain a healthy lawn.**

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer or wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains flow directly to local stormwater ponds, ditches and the Red River. The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry rainwater and snowmelt away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Stormwater pollution comes from a variety of sources, including grease spills, dirt, debris, automotive fluids, pet waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials. Cass County Government is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways.

