



## What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground but runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and over lawns while picking up a variety of contaminants on its way. Polluted runoff degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Polluted stormwater can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

## Best Management Practices

BMPs, or Best Management Practices are ways in which we can get involved to reduce stormwater pollution and to manage stormwater runoff.

### Slow it down, Spread it out, Soak it in.

Get involved in conserving our water. Chemung County has clean water, but it is up to us to keep it that way! *Keep our clean waters, clean!*

Find out more at:

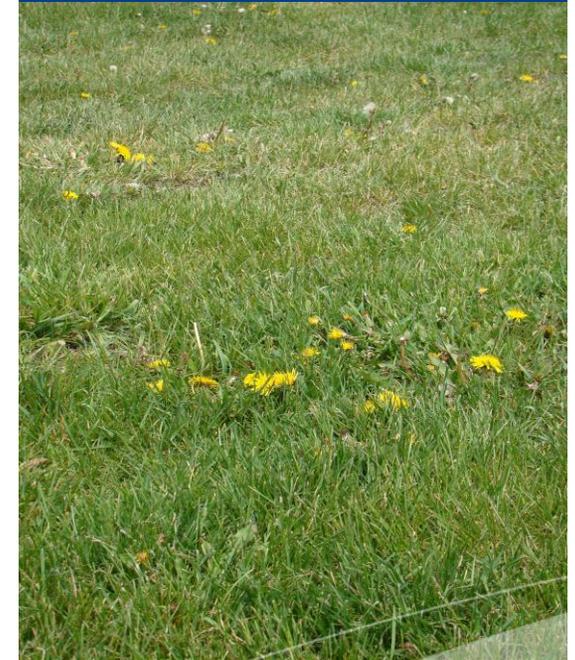
<http://www.chemungstormwater.org>  
[www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater)

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Chemung County Stormwater Coalition  
 Upper Susquehanna Coalition

## Stormwater and the Home



## Chemung County Stormwater Coalition

851 Chemung Street  
 Horseheads, NY, 14845

Phone: 1.607.796.2216

[www.chemungstormwater.org](http://www.chemungstormwater.org)

[www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater)

## Lawn Care

# YOUR LAWN

Leaves, grass clippings and yard waste swept or blown into the street, clog storm drains and pollute the stormwater. When the drains are clogged with grass and leaves, flooding can occur. The grass clippings can contain fertilizers and pesticides that then pollute our waters as well.



## Stormwater BMPs and Your Lawn

### Your Lawn

When you're done working on your lawn, be sure to sweep or blow back any grass clippings, dry fertilizers or pesticides back onto the lawn area.

Grass and leaves easily block up storm drains that then leads to intermittent flooding during rain events.

Contrary to popular belief, yard waste dumped over a stream bank is not a benefit to the stream. When organic matter decomposes in water, it uses up available oxygen fish need in order to survive.

Let the grass clippings remain on your lawn. It works as a natural fertilizer because it returns nutrients back into the lawn.

### Composting

Create compost! Compost contains nutrients that help your soil, retains moisture and reduces runoff. Lawns and gardens are healthier when soil is amended with organic matter. Kitchen scraps and waste are minimized because they are proper additions to your compost pile.