

THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS Stormwater Management Program

In Northeast Ohio, we are fortunate to have an abundance of fresh water for all of our needs from Lake Erie. The problem of keeping this water resource clean is a big challenge for all of us. When rain and melting snow flow over the land, pollutants are picked up and carried away to Lake Erie via local streams and storm sewers. This run-off is called non-point source pollution because it enters our streams and storm sewers, not from a single, identifiable source, but from numerous sources spread over a large area. Non-point source pollution accounts for 60% of the surface water quality problems in Ohio.

The City of University Heights is doing its part to combat non-point source pollution. In accordance with USEPA regulations the City has launched a Stormwater Management Program. This program involves public education, public participation, detection and elimination of illicit discharges, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention.

For more information on how you can help prevent non-point source pollution and protect Lake Erie, please contact Chris Vild, Service Director of University Heights, at (216) 932-7800 ext. 215, or cvild@universityheights.com. If you would like to be involved as a member of the University Heights Stormwater Management Committee, please contact Lita Laven at (216) 881-6600 or lavenl@neorsd.org.

The links below will provide you with more information on stormwater management, non-point source pollution, and pollution prevention in Northeast Ohio.

USEPA NPDES Stormwater Page: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6

What is Non-point Source Pollution? <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/whatis.html>

USEPA Non-point Source Kids Page: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/kids/>

Ohio EPA Non-point Source Page: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/>

Ohio EPA Kids Water Page: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/kids/html/water.html>

Ohio DNR Non-point Source Page:
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/soilandwater/programs/coastalnonpoint/default/tabid/8861/Default.aspx>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Stormwater Program:
<http://www.ccbh.net/ccbh/opencms/CCBH/modules/services/Stormwater.html>

Focus on Fertilizer

Spring is right around the corner and so are yard maintenance activities, including fertilization of your lawn and landscape plants. A good fertilization program promotes healthy plants that are more resistant to drought, disease and insects. Healthy plants also out-compete weeds and filter pollutants carried by runoff water. Indiscriminate use of fertilizers can damage plants, and pollute our waters. To maintain a healthy lawn and protect our water resources, remember:

When rain and melting snow flow across the land, pollutants are picked up and carried to our local streams (Dugway Brook & Nine Mile Creek); eventually those pollutants are carried to Lake Erie. This run-off is called non-point source pollution because it enters Lake Erie and our local streams not from a single, identifiable source, but rather is spread out over a large area. Non-point source pollution accounts for 60% of our surface water quality problems in Ohio.

Fertilizers carelessly applied on one lawn may seem insignificant, but the cumulative effect of its application to thousands of lawns, can lead to major problems in Lake Erie and our local streams. The amounts of fertilizers and pesticides sold in urban areas exceed that for agricultural use.

A lawn fertilization program should begin with a soil test. This test will tell you which of the nutrients may be deficient in your soil. Soil tests provide specific fertilizer recommendations for your lawn that could help you avoid over application of fertilizer. For more information, contact The Cuyahoga County Cooperative Extension Service at cuya@cfaes.osu.edu or 216-429-8200.

Once you have established your nutrient requirements and you're ready to apply the fertilizer, remember to read the label on the package and apply it based on the manufacturer's recommendations. When you have finished fertilizing, sweep all of the fertilizer off paved surfaces back onto the lawn. Fertilizer left on paved surfaces will be washed into our local streams causing a nuisance condition with excessive weed and algae growth. If you use a landscaping service for your fertilizer needs, require the contractor to test your soil first and then customize the application based on your soil needs.

For further information on this topic contact Chris Vild, Service Director at 216-932-7800 extension 215 or cvild@universityheights.com, for a copy of "Focus on Fertilizer", a fact sheet on lawn care and water quality.