

Be Stormwater Savvy



Don't let a good drop go bad!

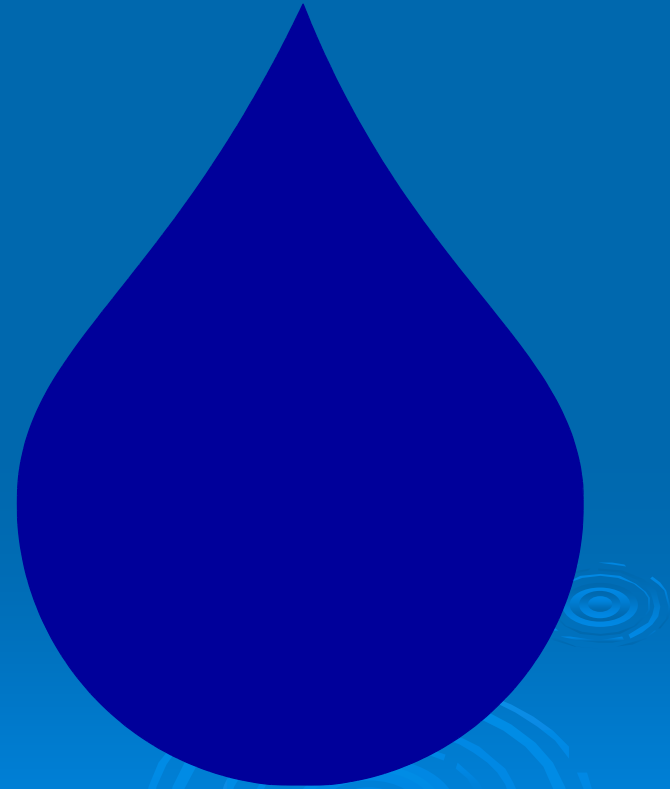
Do you want to keep...?

- Drinking water
- Swimming in our lakes
- Taking walks by rivers and lakes
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Boating



Presentation Overview

- What is Phase II Stormwater Program?
- Water pollution
 - How we contribute?
 - What are the effects?
- 7 Steps to Cleaner Water



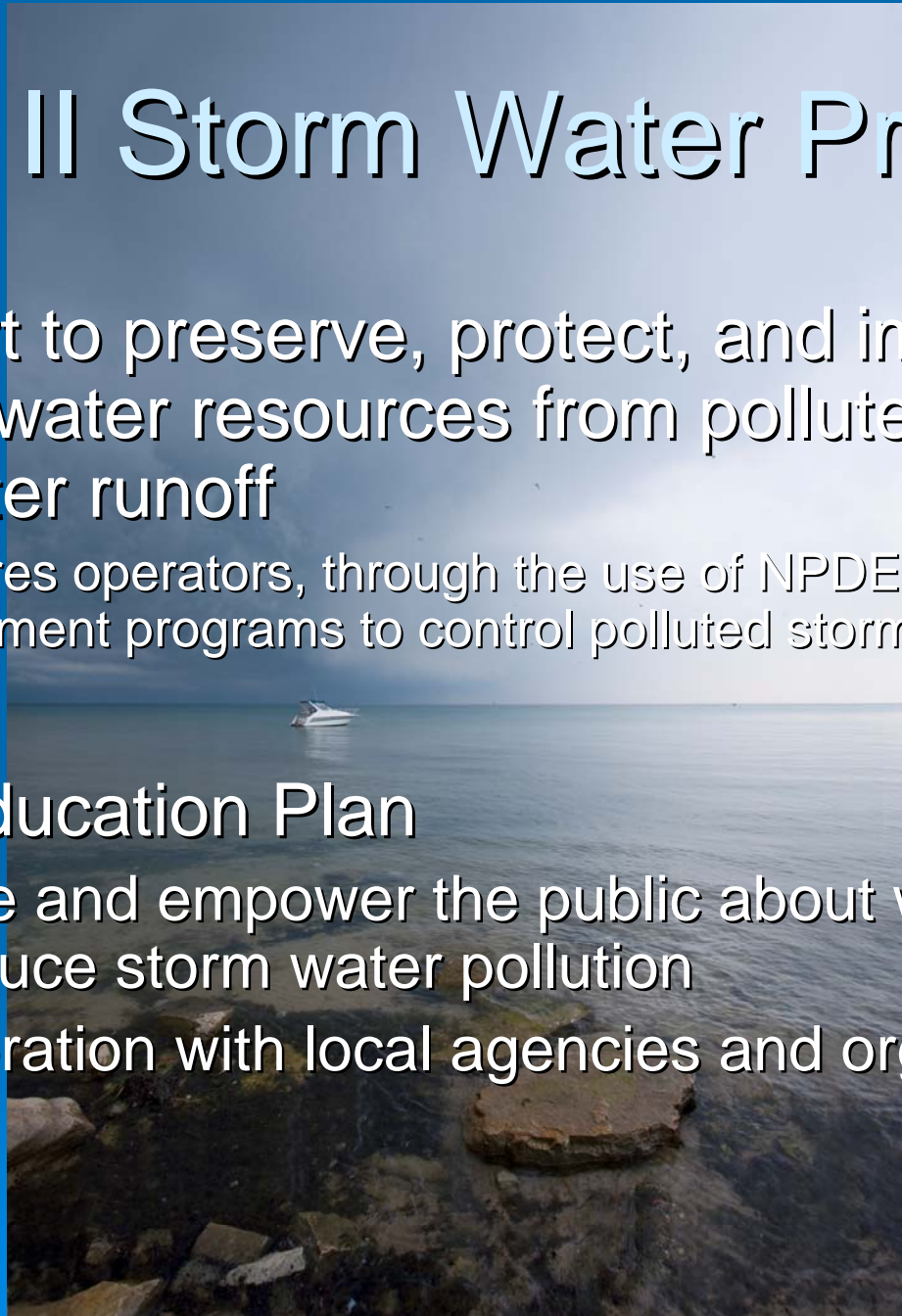
Phase II Storm Water Program

EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the Nation's water resources from polluted stormwater runoff

- requires operators, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs to control polluted stormwater runoff

➤ Public Education Plan

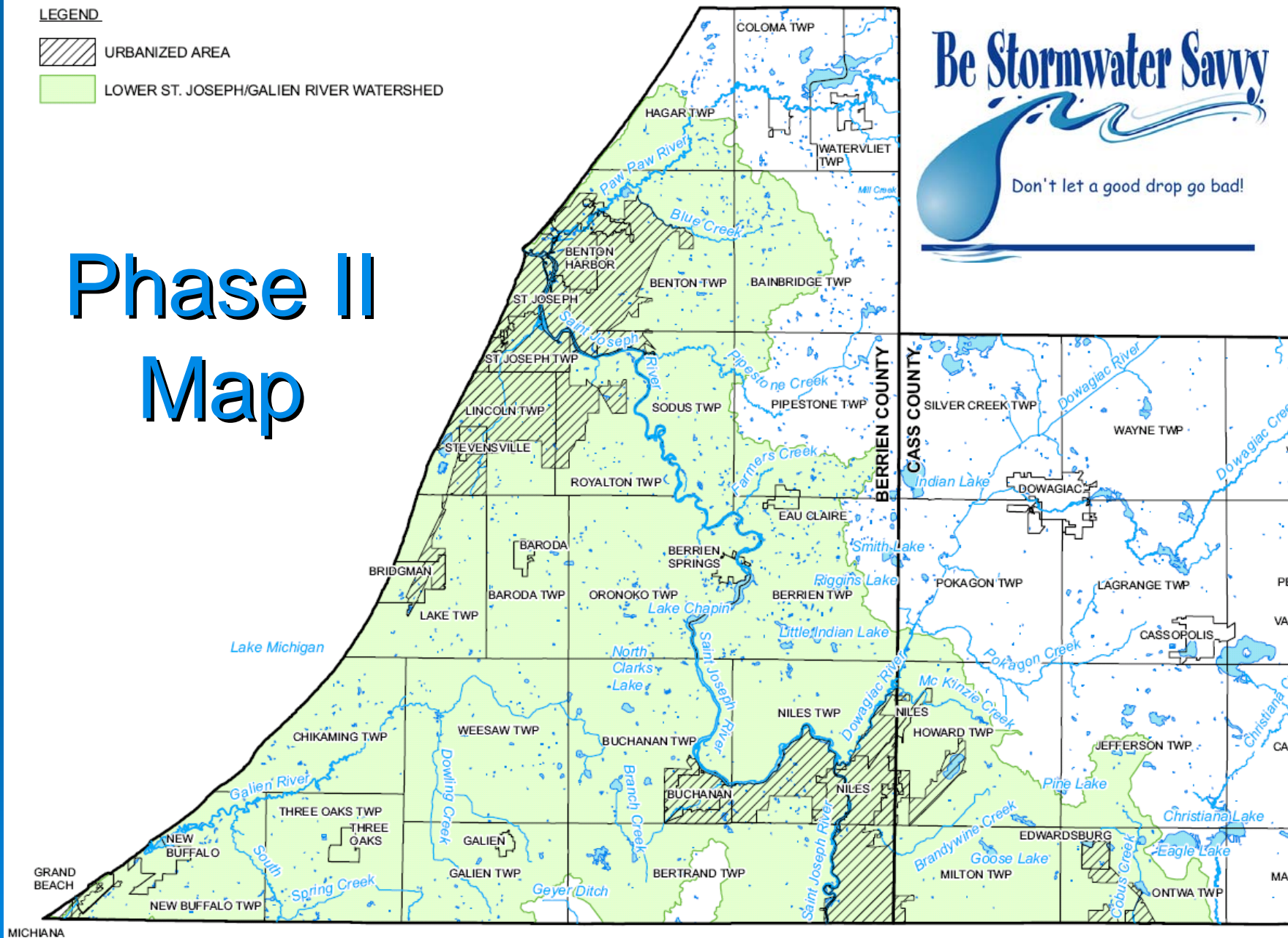
- Educate and empower the public about ways they can reduce storm water pollution
- Collaboration with local agencies and organizations



LOWER ST. JOSEPH/GALIEN RIVER WATERSHED

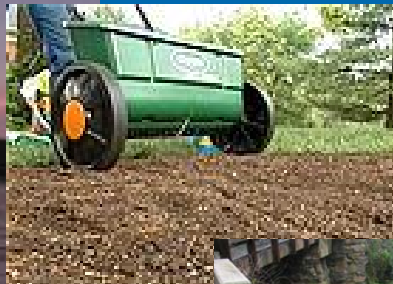
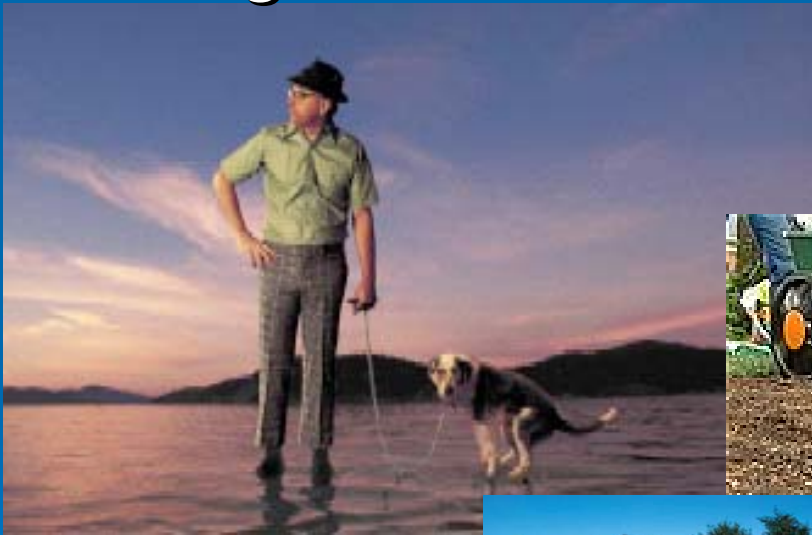
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What do I need to know?

Most water pollution comes from everyday activities of households, not simply from large industries.





➤ **Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides**

- golf courses, farms, city and suburban lawns

➤ **Sediment**

- improperly managed construction sites, crops and forest lands, and eroding stream banks

➤ **Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals**

- parking lots and streets

➤ **Bacteria and nutrients**

- livestock, pet waste, and faulty septic systems



Pollution causes:

Decreased *fish* and other aquatic life habitat.



Increased chance of *contaminated drinking water supplies*.




Increased beach closures.



Increased *algae blooms* causing fish kills.



7 Steps to Cleaner Water

1. Do Not Dump anything down the drain
 2. Save Water
 3. Use fertilizers sparingly
 4. Clean up after your pet
 5. Clean out your septic system regularly
 6. Take your car to a carwash
 7. Dump recreational vehicle waste at a proper disposal site
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- The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several concentric white circles of varying sizes, resembling ripples on water. These ripples are centered around the bottom right of the text area, with the largest ripple centered near the bottom right corner of the slide.

Do Not Dump down the drain

- Take unwanted chemicals and paint to a hazardous waste collection
- Drain water onto a permeable surface such as a lawn



Not to mention – It's Illegal!

- Check for and fix car leaks and recycle motor oil

Save Water

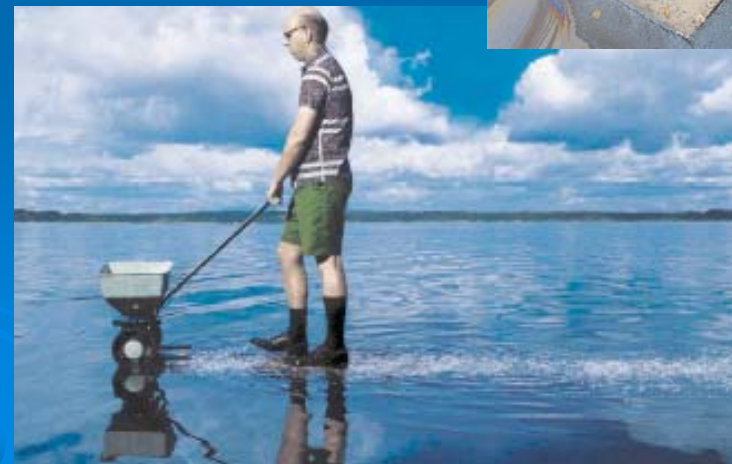
- **Water wisely** – on a fixed schedule and only an inch a week
- **Adjust sprinklers** – water your lawn not your driveway or street
- **Use mulch** – place around trees and plants
- **Sweep** – clean driveways with a broom, not a hose
- **Use rainwater** to water your plants
- **Mow high** – longer grass has deeper roots, requires less water, and looks healthier



When we over-water our lawns, pollution runs to the storm drains and then to our lakes and streams.

Use fertilizers sparingly

- Over-fertilization is a common problem, and the excess can leach into ground water or contaminate rivers or lakes
- Test soil
- Use slow-release fertilizers on areas where the potential for water contamination is high
 - sandy soils
 - steep slopes
 - compacted soils
 - and near water bodies



Clean Up After Your Pet

- Throw your pet's waste in the garbage
- Or flush it down the toilet



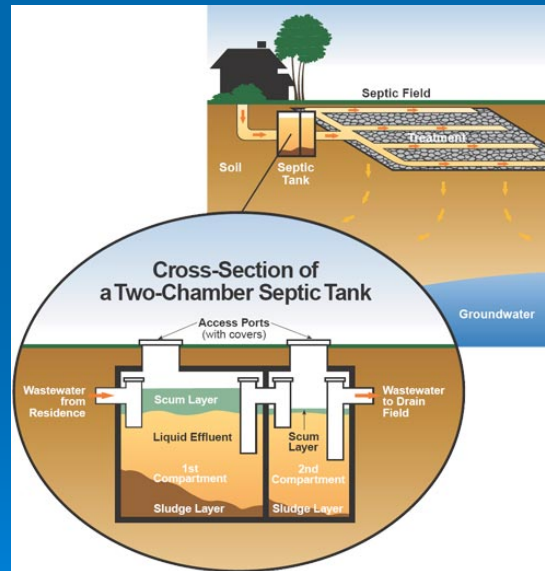
When it rains, your pet's waste is washed into the storm drain with all the bacteria and toxins it contains.



Check your Septic System

How can I tell when my septic system is failing?

- Sewage surfacing on lawns
- Smell of raw sewage around the yard
- Sewage backing up into toilets, tubs or sinks
- Plumbing fixtures draining slowly
- Soft areas or patches of lush growth on top of the septic field



Have a professional pump out the septic tank every three to four years



Take your Car to a Carwash

- Carwashes treat dirty water before discharging it
- A carwash uses less water than if you wash your car at home



Dump RV waste



- Find a proper waste disposal site
- The sanitary waste will be treated and disposed of properly, instead of ending up in storm sewers

Check the RV Waste Fact Sheet at www.swmpc.org/water.asp for waste disposal sites in the area



You can keep...

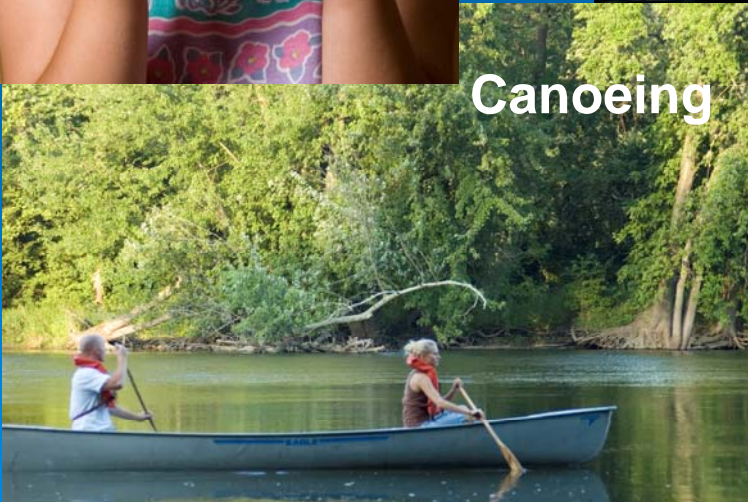
Drinking water



Swimming



Canoeing



Playing in the water



Most Importantly

Remember...

- Conserve Water
- Never dump anything into storm drains

For more information visit:
www.swmpc.org/water.asp



This power point
was developed by:

