Community Engagement in Stormwater

Mobilizing Citizens in Grand Rapids for Positive Environmental Action

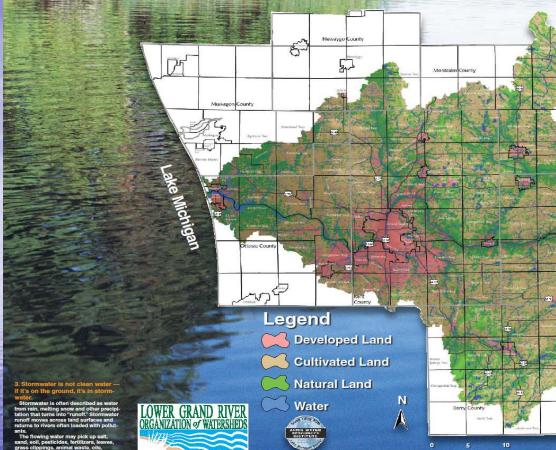
A Short History of Rain in Grand Rapids...

Sewage Overflows into the Grand River
The Rain Tax - 1998
Combined Sewer Overflow Separation - 1987
Today: A New Era for Stormwater?

Watershed Education & Stormwater

Place-Based Education

 What's a watershed?
 Where is *your* watershed?
 How do you impact your watershed?



clippings, animal waste, olis, , litter and many other pollutants. an carries these wastes and chemirough storm sewers or by diract year into waterways. These pollutants seriously urw waters, contributing to besch closures and ing wildlife habitat.

understand the impact we have on its health. It is more difficult for those who never see the river to understand how water flowing from their yards and farms and businessee reach it

5. Developed lands - RUNK on the In neighborhoods layered with Impervious surfaces, nonpoint source pollution can be intense. Develoned areas whether in ritide or rural subdivisions the stormwater runoff • Toxic chemicals from spills of hazardous pro Preserving water quality doesn't mean stoppi development Development can be planned and

Watershed Education & Stormwater

Shaping the issue in context:

 Connecting Great Lakes Water Quality
 Environmental Impact
 Economic Impact
 Social Justice

Watershed Education & Stormwater Combining Learning & Action for Change



Connecting to Trusted Organizations

Mobilizing Faith Groups
Block Clubs
Scout Groups
Schools



http://www.raingardens.org/Gardens_To_Visit.php

Future Challenges

 Establishing a fair, equitable, Stormwater Utility

Future Challenges

Mobilizing the communities that drain into Grand Rapids



Stay in touch with your watershed at www.lgrow.org

Learn More & Contact Us

<u>http://wmeac.org/index.php/water/protectin</u> g-water/rain-barrel-video/

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