

## **Residents and Businesses Preventing Storm water Pollution**

Rain and snow melt picks up trash and other pollutants from lawns, parking lots, streets, and other surfaces that it runs over. This pollution eventually makes its way into the drainage system as storm water flows and as it seeps into the ground.

City of Paris residents have the most to offer and the most to gain by improving storm water practices in the area. You can personally help to prevent polluting our waterways and water sources by keeping these pollutants from getting into ditches and drains:

- Dog waste, a common source of E. coli, should be picked up and properly disposed of.
- Lawn chemicals need to be applied as directed, used conservatively, or replaced with natural alternatives.
- Yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches should be properly disposed of or composted and not placed into ditches or blown into the street.
- Do not litter.
- Never dump anything into the storm water system.
- Paints, oils, gas, and cleaners, etc.... are harmful to the environment and people. Properly dispose of used products, secure leaking containers, and store them where they cannot be spilled.
- Car washing should be done at a carwash or on your lawn where water can soak into the ground.
- Keep outside toys and balls put up.
- Keep vehicles and yard equipment in good working condition to prevent leaks.

All of the above prevention techniques help to keep the storm water drainages working and reduce pollution. Rainwater that doesn't soak into the ground flows to a nearby ditch or storm water pipe in order to reduce street and neighborhood flooding. Ditches also allow for water to soak into the ground unless there is too much rain and then it is forced to flow into a nearby creek or stream and ultimately into our waterways.

Realize that when yard waste, brush, litter, toys, balls, or other debris that becomes part of the water flow may ultimately become a blockage that prevents water flow. When ditches and culverts become clogged, your yard, your neighbor's yard, and even the streets may become flooded and present a health and safety risk.

**The City offers the below services to assist with residential property upkeep:**

- Call 731-642-0473 for scheduling or questions.

Brush: The City of Paris picks up brush on the last Friday of the month, on a monthly basis, but will also pick up after any major storm.

- Brush pick-up is a call-in service with one pick-up per household each cycle.
- The city will not pick up anything from construction, demolition, or repairs.

- No sections of brush shall be longer than 10 feet. Keep brush and leaves separated.
- Brush shall be placed within 10 feet of the curb, not on the sidewalks or in streets.
- Brush is not to be placed in any ditches that could stop water flow.

**Bulk:** The City of Paris offers a bulk pick-up service for any items that are too large to place with normal garbage (Ex. TV, Mattress, Dresser, etc.).

- Bulk pick-up is offered through a call-in and request service on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month.
- The city will not take any items that were left from constructional debris, demolition, or repairs.
- All items that are requested to be picked-up must be placed within 10 feet of the curb, and cannot be blocked, otherwise we will not be able to remove the items.

**Leaf Pickup:** Leaf pick-up for the city begins November 1st and ends March 31st.

- Leaf pick-up is a call-in service during the beginning and end of the leaf pick-up season.
- During the peak part of the season, the city will survey the city and gather all piles that are visible.
- Please keep leaves and brush separated.
- Leaves should be placed as close to the curb and gutter without blocking the sidewalk and stopping up the drainage ditches.
- Leaves may also be bagged and placed at the curb.
- The city will pick-up a maximum of 10 bags of leaves with our call-in brush pick-up service.

**Household Trash-Buggy Rental:** The city offers a trash-buggy service for items too large for the normal sanitation collection or your large clean-up efforts.

- Buggy's will be delivered by the city to your residence and you may fill them as many times as needed for \$60.00 a load. This is not a long term service and usually is provided for roughly a one week period.

**Commercial businesses are also a big contributor to drainage and waterway pollution. Businesses can help by:**

- Picking up trash and debris.
- Stabilizing eroded areas.
- Using the proper amount of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Properly disposing of waste products.
- Using drip pans and not leave them laying around collecting water.
- Properly conducting vehicle maintenance to reduce leaks.
- Covering fuel areas to reduce exposure to rain.
- Washing vehicles in a contained environment.
- Keep dumpster lids closed.

- Monitor for dumpsters for improper disposal of liquids, batteries, tires, and other hazardous wastes.
- Keep chemical containers in good condition.
- Avoiding spills.
- Having a spill control plan and clean up materials on hand.
- Sweeping instead of wet spraying.

Commercial Dumpsters: Businesses are eligible for dumpster refuse collection for a monthly fee.

- Dumpsters are only for businesses. No public use is authorized.
- They are 8 cubic yards.
- They are emptied by front load collection vehicles.
- Call 731-642-0473 for scheduling or questions.

