

## Did you know?

Grass clippings are considered a pollution when washed directly into storm drains or drainage systems. Not only do they clog the storm drains, clippings can fill catch basins to capacity and create flooding during rain events.



Dumping leaves and grass clippings into the stormwater system affects streams. The increase in nutrients associated with grass clippings can cause algae growth, which can kill fish and other aquatic life. Clippings also add organic material to the drainage system that can provide a breeding ground for bacteria and insects.



## Please Don't Burn Your Leaves

Burning leaves is illegal in ditches. This practice adds debris and contaminants. In addition burning of leaves leads to air pollution and is a health and fire hazard.

- ◇ Leaves contain a number of toxic and / or irritating particles and gases, which can accumulate in lungs resulting in a risk of respiratory infection. In addition, toxins and particles become harmful to those who suffer from asthma and other breathing disorders.
- ◇ Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas that results from incomplete burning, such as with smoldering leaf piles.

## Make Mulch & Compost!

# Peach County Stormwater

## How to protect Stormwater and your responsibilities



410 Old Macon Road  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-8717

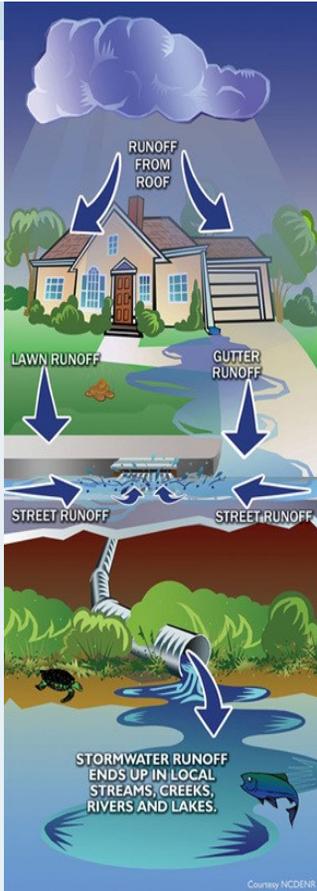
## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is the portion of rainwater that is unable to soak into the ground.

Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, trash, dirt, grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, oil, grease, and other contaminants as it runs off of developed land.

Stormwater runoff eventually flows into county storm drain systems (including ditches) and releases into nearby lakes, rivers, creeks, streams or wetlands.

Anything that enters a storm drain system is released untreated into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and drinking.



- ◇ Keep stormwater pipes, structures, and ditches around your property clear of dirt, yard debris and trash. **Yard debris and trash in ditches not only result in blocking water flow, but also result in possible flooding and re-routing of flow. In addition, blockages and debris are a violation of the Federal and State Clean Water Act.**
- ◇ Never blow, dump or drain anything into a storm drain, ditch or stream.
- ◇ Keep drainage easements maintained, mowed and accessible. **It is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain their lawn, drive, and easements.** Peach County is not allowed to enter personal property for maintenance.
- ◇ Never connect to the County's storm drain pipes, ditches, or structures without obtaining written approval from the Public Works Stormwater Division.
- ◇ Never access the County's storm drain or pipe for any reason. **Under no circumstances should a resident enter a County-owned infrastructure.** If entrance is necessary, a confined space certified pro-

fessional or crew (i.e. hired contractor or County personnel) should complete the work.

- ◇ Notify the Public Works Stormwater Division of any safety hazards within the county right-of-way, such as wide cracks, sinkholes, obstructed ditches, and clogged culverts.
- ◇ Call the 24-Hour Environmental Hotline for any illegal dumping, illicit discharges or stormwater pollution. (478) 827-3535
- ◇ All construction / demolition debris and waste material must be properly disposed of at a legal landfill. See peachcounty.net for listing of landfills.
- ◇ Stockpiling demolition or construction debris and inert materials (e.g. asphalt, concrete or mulch), can be considered an illegal landfill and can be subject to penalties from the State of GA EPD.

