

# THE STORMWATER ADVOCATE

WINTER EDITION

MONTGOMERY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 15, 2026

## WELCOME TO THE STORMWATER ADVOCATE!

We thank you for picking up our very first issue of The Stormwater Advocate! For years our office has produced another newsletter called The Conservation Advocate. We are excited to begin quarterly publications of our first stormwater focused newsletter.

The intent of this newsletter is to provide Montgomery County residents with the education and resources to improve water quality in the region. Tune in quarterly to learn about stormwater and how you can play your part. You can find future publications on our website at the bottom of this page.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ROCK SALT CAN BE A HARMFUL POLLUTANT

Water mixes with the salt and runs off the surfaces that salt is applied to. From here it can end up in local waterways. Even small increases in sodium chloride (salt) content can massively impact aquatic life. Chloride levels in some urban areas rise so high each winter that many freshwater species die off entirely.

## BE SALT SMART THIS WINTER!



## TIPS FOR REDUCING SALT USAGE

You can play your part in reducing our areas chloride pollution by following these simple steps!

### Shovel Before Salting

Salt is meant to remove ice in thin layers. Salting without shoveling reduces effectiveness.

### Use Less

A little goes a long way! At 30°F one pound of salt, about a mug full, can melt 46 lbs. of ice!

### Check The Temperature

The effectiveness of rock salt swiftly decreases below 15°F. Salting below that temperature may be adding excess chloride without melting any ice.

### Sweep Up Excess

Excess salt washes away over time. Sweeping it up after storms keeps it out of our bodies of water.

## THE HIDDEN INFRASTRUCTURE BENEATH YOUR FEET

Since the 1800's American cities have been managing stormwater with storm sewers, the hidden infrastructure beneath your feet.

A storm sewer starts at its inlet. You have most likely seen these in parking lots and curbs throughout the city. They are typically rectangular holes in the ground or curb covered by a metal grate. Water runs off hard surfaces and into the inlet. The grate on the inlet prevents debris from entering the storm sewer.

The inlets are connected by a series of underground pipes that direct the runoff to nearby bodies of water. This is the hidden part of a storm sewer that is rarely thought of. One street may have several inlets that connect to a single pipe. Anything that goes into the inlet goes into the pipe. If trash is dumped into an inlet, it can clog the pipe and flood an entire street!



The underground pipes end at a storm sewer's outlet. This is commonly a pipe sticking out the side of a creek, river, lake, or pond. Anything that goes into the storm sewer comes out of this pipe.

If pollutants flow into an inlet they will come out of the outlet. This outlet could be the stream that you fish in or the lake you swim at. That is why it is so important to keep our stormwater clean.

Your cities service department maintains this system to ensure a safe and healthy environment for its residents. Next time you see a stormwater inlet, think about the vast underground system that it is a part of. If you see any trash, pick it up. And if you see any pollutants near one report it to the city. We can all play our part in keeping Montgomery County clean!

## SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Here are some contacts you can call when you have a stormwater related issue.

Storm sewer flooding the street?

- Call your cities service department. The system may be clogged.

Not sure how to properly dispose of something?

- Call Montgomery County Solid Waste (937) 225-4999

Need to report a spill or environmental emergency?

- Call EPAs emergency hotline 1-800-282-9378

Not sure who to call?

- Call Montgomery SWCD 937-854-7645. We will steer you in the right direction!

## For The Kids

Our office is committed to creating a better future through the education of our youth. We host many events and classroom visits throughout the year. You can stay up to date on these events via our Facebook.

With each edition of our newsletter we will include a section meant to teach your children about stormwater. Enjoy this word search with your kids and consider teaching them how each word impacts water quality as it is found.

## STORMWATER WORD SEARCH

Q	D	P	S	Z	U	S	V	T	X
B	I	R	U	I	J	T	K	W	D
I	Z	F	A	K	Q	O	E	C	I
X	J	O	B	I	Q	R	L	F	M
W	R	X	D	O	N	M	U	F	W
B	O	U	I	P	X	A	S	I	I
L	J	N	S	Q	O	A	G	O	Q
F	H	B	S	S	L	J	B	E	Y
F	U	K	J	T	U	A	C	V	D
P	O	L	L	U	T	A	N	T	T

DRAINAGE  
ICE  
POLLUTANT

SALT  
SNOW  
STORM