



## **PLEASE HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS**

The Village of Grand Beach cares about protecting White Creek and Lake Michigan from storm water pollution. We hope to help educate the residents of Grand Beach regarding the protection of these two precious waterways by sending out this bulletin. It is our job, as well as your job to protect these waterways, not only for ourselves, but for future generations to come.

The Village has adopted ordinance number 64 to regulate non-storm water discharges to the storm water drainage system in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process and to provide for penalties for violations of the ordinance.

Illicit discharges contain pollutants that will significantly degrade White Creek and Lake Michigan and water resources of the Village, thus threatening the health, safety and welfare of the citizens.

Illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to a water body or a storm water drainage system that does not consist entirely of storm water, and is not authorized by the terms of an NPDES permit, or that is not an authorized discharge as defined by ordinance number 64. This ordinance is available on our website at [www.grandbeach.org](http://www.grandbeach.org).

Polluted storm water runoff can cause harm to the water, plants, fish, animals and people. Please do your part to protect the water quality by taking special care to ensure that no pollutants enter White Creek or Lake Michigan through the storm sewer drains, catch basins, ditches, parking lots, roads, or other man-made channels that are designed or used, singly or together in combination with one another, for collecting or conveying storm water.

The word pollutant includes, but is not limited to the following; any dredged spoil, solid waste, vehicle fluids, yard wastes, animal wastes, agricultural waste products, sediment, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological wastes, radioactive materials, hazardous materials, wrecked or discharged equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, commercial, and agricultural waste, or any other contaminant or other substance defined as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act.

In order to help protect our waterways, please follow these recommendations:

- Do not pour anything down the storm drain, as it could flow straight into White Creek or Lake Michigan.
- Take unwanted chemicals, varnish, and oil based paint to a hazardous collection site.
- Check for leaks in your automobiles, and fix them as soon as possible.
- Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain. Recycle your motor oil.

- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in your driveway. If you choose to wash your car at home, wash it on the grass or gravel, but not on a paved driveway or street. Waste water from vehicle washing is prohibited from entering the storm sewer systems.
- Always pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly in the trash.
- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped regularly.
- Use low or no-phosphorus fertilizers and always follow the directions to ensure that you are using the proper application rate, and apply sparingly.
- During the winter, use de-icing chemicals sparingly, with sand preferred for environmental reasons.
- Native vegetation, such as dune grass should be planted to the maximum extent possible on slopes.

To report illicit discharges and improper disposal of materials to the storm sewer systems, contact the Village Clerk at (269) 469-3141.

To report evidence of pollution to Lake Michigan or White Creek, contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at (269) 567-3578.

To report soil erosion from sloping land into White Creek or Lake Michigan, contact the Berrien County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Department at (269) 983-7111, ext. 8255.

To obtain information on maintaining your septic system, contact the Berrien County Health Department at (269) 756-2008.

The next household hazardous waste collection drop off is scheduled for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. EDT at the New Buffalo City Fire Department, located at 35 N. Harrison Street, New Buffalo. For additional dates and locations, contact the Berrien County Resource Recycling Center at (269) 983-7111, ext. 8234.

Non-hazardous wastes are picked up on Mondays, and recyclable wastes are picked up on alternating Mondays by Able Disposal. Contact them at (800) 828-2253 with any questions, or before placing a large item out for pick up so that they can schedule a truck to pick up the large item.

The Village of Grand Beach picks up yard wastes for composting if left at the edge of the property near the street. Leaves and yard waste should be placed in biodegradable bags until November 2<sup>nd</sup> when loose leaf pick up will begin again.

Storm water pollution prevention fact sheets are available on our website at [www.grandbeach.org](http://www.grandbeach.org) and are also available at the Village Hall.

For more information, please visit the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website at [www.swmpc.org/water.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/water.asp).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (269) 469-3141.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our waterways clean.

Mary J. Robertson  
Village Clerk/Treasurer