

Water (and everything else) runs downhill. Water from rain and snow in a “watershed” drains into streams, creeks and rivers. It carries pollution from roofs, driveways, streets, yards— everywhere people live and work. This litter and pollution in our area ends up in Lake Erie, our primary source of drinking water.

Plastic and Trash Tons of litter and trash pile up every year on land and enters our waters. It lasts forever.



Teach children (and adults) the importance of not littering. Cigarette butts, candy wrappers, and fast food packaging belong in the trash, not on the ground. Pick up litter especially if it is on the curb, and when possible, in the street.

Dispose of all non-recyclable plastics in the trash. Cut the links of plastic beverage holders and the handles of plastic bags to protect animals from entanglement before throwing them out.

Avoid microfiber (polyester) clothing and cleaning products. Tiny filaments from the fabric get into the water when we wash them. These tiny fibers stay in our waters until consumed by the fish or by us.

Reduce your use of disposable plastics like straws and utensils. Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at your grocery store. Use reusable and recyclable items whenever possible.

Recycle properly. Call city service department for information.

Bees and Food

Bees, butterflies (and other insects) carry pollen from flower to flower. Without pollination, one-third of the world’s fruits and vegetables cannot produce food (including tomatoes).

Reduce or eliminate fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. They harm pollinators, animals, people, and water.

Buy local and organic farm produce in season. Or, grow your own.

Plant pollinator-friendly flowers around your yard or in a container. Regional natives are best. Contact OSU Extension Service at extension.osu.edu; or call Master Gardeners at (216) 429-8200.



Pick up pet waste to keep dangerous bacteria out of our waters. Call 216-881-6600 for a “Pick up the Poop” yard sign.

Use low-phosphate cleaners to prevent harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie. Avoid antibacterial cleaners, they contain harmful chemicals and create super-germs. Substitute baking soda and vinegar for harsh chemical cleaners. For Green Cleaning workshops contact cuyahogawcd.org, 216-524-6580.

Take unused medications to a community drop-off or put them in the trash. Medicine *must not* be flushed down the drain.

Take paints, chemical cleaners, and car fluids to a hazardous waste drop off. Contact city service dept. for information.

Report strange colors, debris, or odors in any waterway to that community’s service department. Call police if you see anyone dumping into a storm drain. All storm drains flow to Lake Erie unfiltered.

