

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT EROSION?

1. Seed or mulch any bare soil on your land. Plant roots guard soil from rain drops and prevent erosion.
2. Choose perennials, shrubs and trees that thrive in your soil or climate. Native plants have deeper root systems that protect soil from erosion. Check with a local nursery for information.
3. Direct downspouts onto grass or gardens.
4. Stabilize hills with trees or other plants.
5. Only garden on level areas of your property.
6. Cover gardens with mulch or leaves over winter to protect plants and reduce erosion when snow melts.
7. Plant shrubs or trees to create a buffer between your property and any lake or stream. Buffers filter out pollutants.
8. Set up erosion controls when doing small construction projects. For more information contact the Public Works Department.
9. For larger construction projects contact the City's Community Development Office at 636-282-2378.

If you observe erosion at construction sites or on stream banks, contact the Arnold Public Works Department at 636-282-2386. A staff member will visit the site and evaluate needed actions.

Top soil is an important resource for your yard. However when the soil is lost through erosion it becomes a pollutant called "sediment". Water flowing from your yard during rain or snow melt carries sediments (and the pollutants that attach to sediments) to our local streams and ultimately the Meramec River.

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEDIMENT?

Sediment clouds water and reduces sunlight for the stream plants that provide habitat and oxygen for fish. Sediments fill in the spaces between rocks in stream bottoms and take away fish spawning habitat and habitat for critters that live on the bottom.

Sediment also carry other pollutants such as nutrients, oil and grease. Excess nutrients in water lead to nuisance algae growth.

### SIGNS OF EROSION INCLUDE:

- Exposed tree roots, stones and rocks.
- Formation of small gullies.
- Buildup of soil in low areas.
- Widening or deepening stream channels.



# STORM WATER INFORMATION

City of Arnold  
Public Works Department

Tel: 636-282-2386



## Things You Can Do to Keep Water Clean

- Never throw anything down storm drains.
- Don't Litter
- Obey Arnold's Pets Waste Ordinance.
- Recycle. Buy products with the least amount of packaging available.
- Conserve water. Don't let the water run when you are brushing your teeth, shorten the length of your showers and repair any leaking faucets.



- Try natural organics instead of fertilizers that contain phosphorus.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT. ONE OF THE BIGGEST THREATS TO OUR WATER QUALITY IS PLAIN OLD DIRT WASHING INTO OUR RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS FROM LAWNS.**

## NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Non-point source pollution comes from many sources. Non-point source pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over the ground. As the water moves, it picks up natural and man-made pollutants depositing them into storm drains which lead to our lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and even our underground sources of drinking water. Some of the pollutants include excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals, salt, bacteria from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems.

Some states report that non-point source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems. The total effects may not always be fully assessed however, we do know that pollutants have harmful effects on our drinking water, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

We can all work together and prevent non-point source pollution by changing some everyday habits.



## WATER CONSERVATION

### Why Save Water?

Besides saving money, water conservation can help prevent pollution. Using less water reduces run-off and leaves more water in streams or lakes, which protects existing ecosystems such as wetlands and water supplies. Reduced water usage may extend the life of existing sewage treatment plants and can eliminate the need for new water supplies which are expensive to locate and build.

### How Much Water Are We Using?

The average American uses 60 gallons of water a day. That does not include car washing, lawn watering and other outdoor uses. Flushing the toilet, bathing and washing clothes are the largest uses of water in the home.

### Conservation Measures

Check faucets, hoses, and toilets for leaks. Turn off hoses and connecting faucets when not in use. This will also preserve equipment and avoid leaks. Inspect your water pipes periodically for pinhole leaks and leaks in connections. Repair leaks as soon as possible. Don't over fill the bathtub. Take shorter showers. Install water saving toilets and shower heads. Don't let the water run when brushing your teeth or shaving. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't need to run the tap water for cold water.