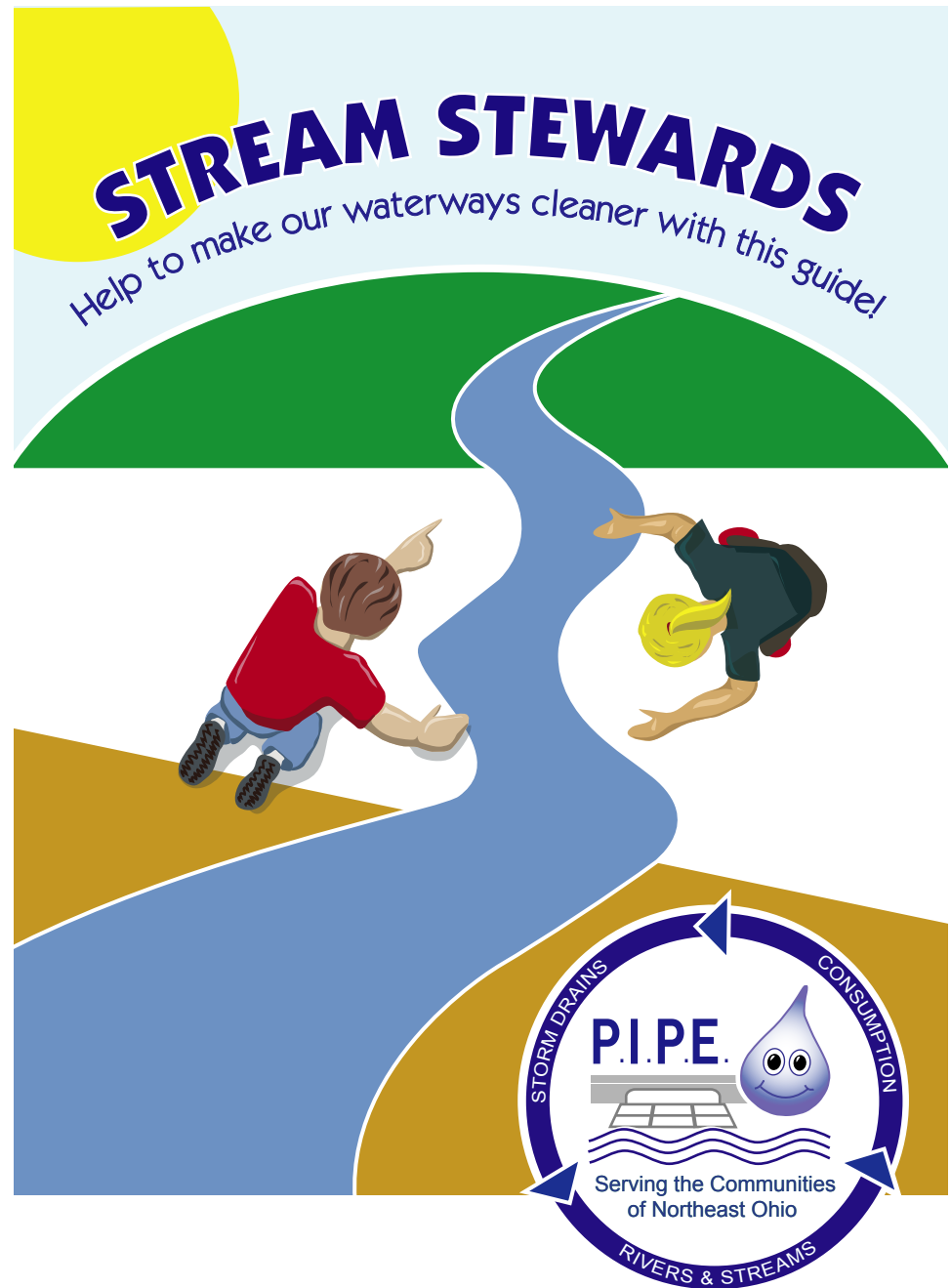


Green Lawn Checklist

Use this checklist to identify problems in your own lawn and find environmental friendly solutions.

- Mow grass so clippings stay on the lawn and out of streets and storm drains.
- Apply fertilizers when necessary and not before heavy rainstorms that could wash the chemicals into the storm drains.
- Compost yard and garden waste, and landscape your yard to reduce water runoff and eliminate soil erosion.
- Create a rain garden. Check with your local SWCD for information about a future rain garden workshop.

For more information contact:



A publication by the
Northeast Ohio Communities Public Involvement,
Public Education Committee

Read "The Solution to Stormwater Pollution"

Read the "Solution to Stormwater Pollution" Homeowners Guide to learn healthy household procedures such as keeping common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of the stormwater, which flows into our streams and rivers. Guides can be obtained at your local SWCD office or the EPA web site at:

www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution_to_pollution.pdf

Mark a storm drain

Storm drains gather lots of pollution from the street and nearby yards. This stormwater is not filtered, but drains directly to a stream or river. Work with your local SWCD to label these drains and educate your neighbors.



Do a stream clean-up

Litter and trash along stream banks and in the stream water create a hazardous habitat for the animals and plants that live there. Litter is also unsightly and mars the natural beauty of the environment. Most litter can be recycled if disposed of correctly.

Monitor a stream

Many groups in Northeast Ohio help to monitor stream health. They wade into a stream and collect physical data, such as temperature, chemical data, such as pH and nitrogen levels, and biological data, including aquatic insects and fish. Call your local SWCD office for training and equipment.

Reduce stream bank erosion

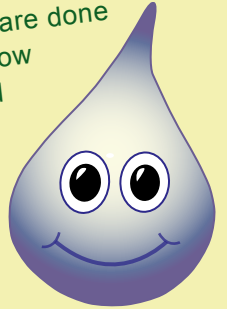
Sediment is one of the leading causes of water pollution when it washes off the land and into the water. The best way to prevent bank erosion is to establish plantings of trees and other vegetation. The plant roots will help anchor the soil on the stream's bank.

Design a display

Showcase what you have done. Many public buildings have display areas that you can use for a short period of time. Develop an eye-catching and informational display about clean water, and highlight the things you think are most important for people to know.

Clean "green"

Many of the substances in polluted water come from household chemicals. These can be cleaners, pesticides, lawn care products or home improvement products. Identify some hazardous wastes in your home. What are they used for? Where do they end up when you are done with them? Find out how to properly handle and dispose of household chemicals. Also, research environmentally friendly "green" alternatives.



Backyard Conservation

Some of the most common pollutants in water come from our lawns and gardens. Learn how common lawn care habits can be adjusted to be more water friendly. What are the alternatives? The National Wildlife Foundation is a good source of information for environmentally sensible yards.

See our Green Lawn Checklist on back...