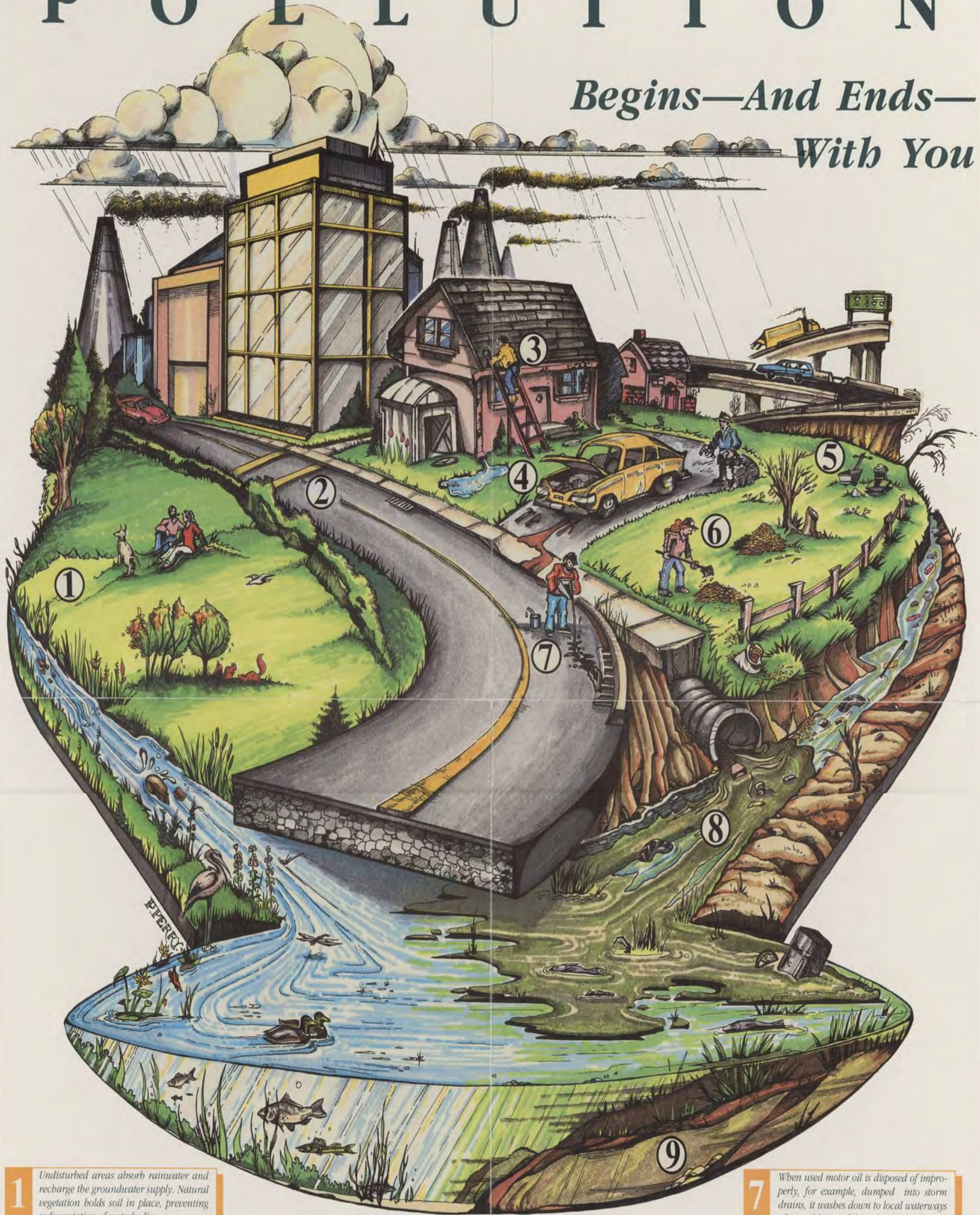


POLLUTION

*Begins—And Ends—
With You*



1 Undisturbed areas absorb rainwater and recharge the groundwater supply. Natural vegetation holds soil in place, preventing sedimentation of waterbodies.

Paving an area prevents absorption of rainwater, increasing the potential for flooding and erosion of soil into waterbodies. **2**

3 Zinc from aging pipes, gutters, and metal roofs leaches into rainwater and enters the environment, where it may harm aquatic life.

Asbestos and copper—both potential pollutants—leach into runoff from car and truck brake linings and worn pipes and fittings. **4**

EVERYDAY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

5 Lawn and garden fertilizers enter runoff and increase nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) in waterbodies. Excessive nutrients stimulate algae and aquatic weed growth, choking waterways and robbing fish of oxygen.

Waste from leaf and grass clippings, garbage, animal droppings, and other organic debris pollutes runoff. The decaying organics deplete oxygen levels in water and affect fish. **6**

7 When used motor oil is disposed of improperly, for example, dumped into storm drains, it washes down to local waterways where oil harms fish and wildlife.

Trash thrown directly into lakes, streams, and wetlands is unsightly, may hurt aquatic life and may pollute the water as it decays. **8**

9 Sediment accumulates in waterbodies from soil erosion and destroys feeding grounds for aquatic life, clogs fish gills, blocks light transmission, and increases water temperatures.

Produced under a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Terrene Institute.



For information on stormwater pollution prevention efforts in Erie and Niagara Counties, contact the WNY Stormwater Coalition at (716) 858-6370 www.erie.gov/stormwater

Keep It Clean!

Stormwater Runoff...

...is rain and snowmelt that does not soak into the ground.

...picks up pollutants such as automotive fluids, lawncare chemicals, and eroded soil.

...flows in ditches and through sewers directly into local waterways, **UNTREATED!**

...can be diverted away from surfaces and onto grass or into rain barrels and rain gardens.

...can be cleaner if we all do our part to prevent it from picking up pollutants.

For information on stormwater pollution prevention, rain barrels or rain gardens, contact the
WNY Stormwater Coalition
(716) 858-6370
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WNY Stormwater Coalition

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground and eventually runs off into waterways.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Stormwater runoff can collect pollutants such as animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil or grease, and debris from streets, sewer drains, rooftops, and sloped lawns.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

General Household: Whenever possible use nontoxic products.



Do not dispose of chemicals in household drains or stormdrains.

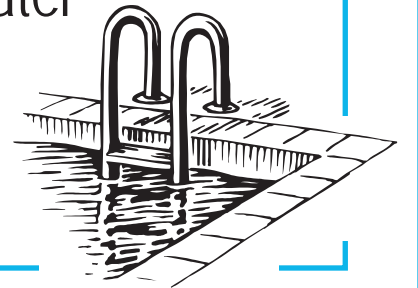
Paint and Solvent: Water based paint is best, but when using oil based dispose of them in the proper place, not the sink drain or at the curb.



Automotive: Keep an eye on any possible leaks your automobile may have. Take any extra fluids to the household hazardous waste collection.



Swimming Pool and Spa: Check with the municipality before draining water with chlorine into a storm sewer or ditch.



Lawn and Garden: Use the proper amount of water listed in the directions when using pesticides or fertilizers, dispose of the chemical properly.



Pet Care: Pet waste can contaminate the water supply if not picked up as soon as possible.



Contact Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste Program for disposal recommendations on the products listed above.

858-6800

www.erie.gov/environment/compliance/pollution_sw2

Joel A. Giambra, Erie County Executive

Soak It In!

Stormwater Runoff...

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It's YOUR Stormwater...



Keep It Clean!

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