

## How Do *My* Habits Effect Lake Erie?

When it rains, whatever doesn't soak into the ground runs off roofs and yards, down streets and ditches, into storm drains and then directly into rivers, lakes, creeks, and other local water bodies. If that runoff is polluted, it is most likely due to our own actions.

Too much fertilizer in lawns and gardens, pet waste, littering, improper disposal of household waste and chemicals are all sources of pollution. Poorly maintained or leaking septic systems are also pollutants that find there way to lake Erie.



\*Flushing unused medication in the toilet or throwing away with the trash can also contribute to drinking water contamination and may cause harm to aquatic life.

Safely dispose of leftover pharmaceuticals by taking them to a collection event or permanent pharmaceutical drop-off.

\*\*Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency to see if they are a Pharmaceutical drop-off location.

**In 2015 alone, the Lorain County Sheriff's Department collected and disposed of over 2 TONS of unused medication!**

## YOU can Make a Difference



and save money too!

**Below are some helpful tips on how *you* can help protect Lake Erie with these money saving environmentally friendly tips:**

- Use road salt sparingly and sensibly and sweep up and reuse any extra.
- Establish a no-mow zone around backyard streams and wetlands saves gas, energy and assists with erosion control.
- Install a rain barrel to catch and reduce storm water runoff. Rain barrels save you money by not using drinking water for watering vegetables, flowers and trees.
- Properly maintaining your vehicle avoids costly mechanic visits as well as assist in the prevention of oil and gas leaks.
- Remove some of your turf grass and replace with native plants. This helps the local pollinators as well as saves energy.
- Stop using expensive toxic weed killers!! White vinegar and dish soap in a spray bottle does the trick! For the complete recipe, see our brochure "Green" Lawns Clean Water and other beneficial information on our District website: [stormwater.loraincounty.us](http://stormwater.loraincounty.us)



## Why Should I Care About Lake Erie?

The twelfth largest lake in the world (in area), Lake Erie provides us with water, food, jobs, recreation, economic growth and much more!



**Lake Erie provides drinking water to over 11 million people.**

### Our Great Lake~ Lake Erie

- ◆ Lake Erie is the shallowest of all the Great Lakes and has *more* consumable fish than all the other Great Lakes combined!
- ◆ Lake Erie's great fishery supports *10,000 jobs* per year and boosts the economies by over \$1 billion annually.
- ◆ Lake Erie is the Walleye Capital of the World – people come from all over the world to fish these waters.
- ◆ Lake Erie and its shoreline are a major source of many minerals. \*The largest sandstone quarry in the world is located in Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio.

## **REVIVE YOUR LAWN NATURALLY!!**

Give your lawn a beer to keep it at its peak. Yes! You heard right! The combination of beer and the ingredients listed below can help revive a dull lawn in no time!

### **Grass Reviver**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 full can of regular pop (not diet)
- 1 full (12 oz.) can of beer (not light)
- 1/2 cup of liquid dishwashing soap (not antibacterial dishwashing liquid)
- 1/2 cup household ammonia
- 1/2 cup of mouthwash
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#### **Directions:**

**Pour into 10-gallon hose-end sprayer (other sizes will work too).**

**In High heat apply every three weeks.**

**Tim Heffron, WiseBread.com.**



The Lorain County PIPE  
C/o Lorain County Storm Water District  
226 Middle Ave. 5th Floor  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
Phone (440) 328-2362  
Fax (440) 328-2349  
vhaynes@loraincounty.us  
[Stormwater.Hotline \(440\) 328-2333](mailto:Stormwater.Hotline@loraincounty.us)  
[Stormwater.loraincounty.us](http://Stormwater.loraincounty.us)

*Lorain County Commissioners ~ Ted Kalo ~ Lori Kokoski ~ Matt Lundy*



**Public Involvement Public Education**

Educating the public on our impact on Lake Erie