



## *Take the Stormwater Quiz*

**True or False: Most stormwater systems outlet directly to streams rather than to sanitary sewage treatment plants.**

**True or False: Properly functioning storm drains protect against flooding.**

**True or False: Ordinary citizens can help protect our water resources.**

**True or False: The Town of Schuyler is in the midst of developing a Stormwater Management Plan.**

Did you answer *True* to each of the above questions? If you did, you're on your way to becoming a stormwater expert. It's true that most stormwater systems in our area outlet directly to streams or wetlands. That means that everything that gets picked up by rain water during and after a storm could find its way to streams like the Oriskany Creek, the Mohawk River and the Sauquoit Creek.

It's also true that, in order to protect our valuable water resources, the Town is in the midst of implementing a Stormwater Management Plan. That means that your local elected officials are working with State and County agencies to clean up stormwater and protect water quality. How are they doing this? Well, first of all, they're reaching out to you, the public, to tell you how stormwater can become polluted and harm our waterways. That's right, ordinary citizens like you can help protect our water resources. If we all do our part to keep stormwater clean, our streams, lakes and wetlands will be protected from pollution. How can you help? First and foremost, never litter and never put any waste into the storm drain system. Also, pick up after your

pet when you go for a walk and fix any leaks on your vehicle to keep them from flowing into the storm system.

Another part of the Stormwater Management Plan is to carefully review construction sites that may cause soil to enter the stormwater system. Properly stabilizing construction sites is the primary method of preventing soil from clogging the storm system. Speaking of clogging the storm system, it's also true that properly functioning storm sewer systems protect communities from flooding. That's why the Town works hard to regularly maintain the storm sewer system and remove things that block the flow. Things that can clog the storm sewer system include green waste from lawns, soil from construction sites, garbage, and debris from the road. One way that you can help keep the storm sewer functioning is to keep your green waste away from the catch basins. That's because stormwater can pick up the piles of leaves and grass clippings and soil on your street and dump them into a catch basin and cause blockage. Check out ways to recycle your green waste – it'll help keep the storm drain flowing and the streams clean.

The Town of Schuyler is also protecting stormwater by prohibiting non-stormwater discharges from entering the storm sewer system. That means that wastewater from septic systems or washing machines is not allowed to enter the storm sewer system. Remember, storm systems aren't filtered so pollution that goes in could come out into a stream, lake or wetland.

Want to know more about stormwater and how you can protect our water resources? Contact the Soil and Water Conservation District at 736-3334.