Minnesota is known for its abundance of water resources. However, the quality of Minnesota’s lakes, streams and wetlands is threatened by increasing development and pollution.

When it rains, the stormwater that runs off driveways, lawns, houses and parking lots can carry pollutants like oil, paint and chemicals down storm sewers and into nearby lakes, streams and rivers.

In new developments, filtering or treating stormwater runoff with best management practices like stormwater ponds is required.

But we cannot simply build our way out of poor water quality.

By taking the following easy, no-cost or low-cost steps, you can have a big impact on reducing runoff and protecting our water resources and wildlife habitat.

For more information, visit:

- Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
  - www.bassettcreekwmo.org
- Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
  - www.elmcreekwatershed.org
- Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission
  - www.shinglecreek.org
- West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission
  - www.shinglecreek.org
- Freshwater Society
  - www.freshwater.org
- Hennepin County Environmental Services
  - www.hennepin.us/water
- Three Rivers Park District
  - www.threeriversparkdistrict.org

Improving Minnesota’s Lakes, Rivers and Streams

10 Things You Can Do

West Metro Water Alliance
USE CHEMICALS WISELY

Use chemical products according to label directions. Consider alternative or natural remedies to control weeds and pests. Read labels on herbicides and pesticides carefully. Use the minimum amount needed to control the problem. Find natural remedies to control weeds and pests online or at your local nursery.

KEEP A HEALTHY LAWN

Aerate your lawn, seed bare patches and mow at a higher setting. Healthy lawns are good for the environment. A vigorous lawn needs less watering, fewer chemicals and less maintenance. Aerate your lawn periodically to loosen the soil. Seed bare patches to prevent erosion and soil loss. Mow at a higher setting. Grass mowed to a height of 2½ to 3 inches develops deeper, healthier roots and has a competitive advantage over weeds.

PLANT A RAIN GARDEN

Capture, clean and infiltrate rainwater that would otherwise run off your property. Raingardens are planted depressions designed to store rainwater and allow it to soak into the soil. Find out more about rain gardens at www.bluethumb.org.