



## **What is Stormwater Runoff and why do we care about it?**

*Stormwater runoff* is created when rain falling onto roofs, lawns, parking lots and streets is unable to soak into the ground. When it rains or snows, water that can't soak into the ground flows across these surfaces picking up a variety of pollutants on its way into our storm sewer system and then into streams and rivers. This dirty water flows untreated into Huntington's aging storm sewer system, and out to the Ohio River or one of our local streams. When water can't soak into the ground, it may also cause flooding.

When Huntington's storm sewer system was built there wasn't any concern about future growth and water pollution. The storm sewer system was not built to handle the volume of stormwater that it receives today.

### **Why do we care?**

Nuisance flooding is an inconvenience to people who live, work and play in Huntington. We want to minimize flooding as much as possible.



*Flooding in the Fairfield East area – Summer 2013*

We also care because stormwater runoff pollution is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States.

In Huntington, all of our receiving streams are polluted. The Huntington Stormwater Utility is mandated by the Federal and State Government to implement a stormwater management program that addresses stormwater pollution. The Utility has made progress in the last few years to come into compliance with these environmental laws.

### **How can you help?**

Remember that whatever you put on the ground, will eventually make its way into Huntington's storm sewers and ultimately into the local stream or river. If you throw your cigarette butts on the ground, they'll end up in the storm sewer. Please put trash in its proper place.

### **Leaves and Grass clippings**

Bag up your leaves and grass clippings and do not allow them into the street. This will save space in the storm sewers for stormwater! If too many leaves end up in the storm sewers, then flooding may occur.

If you have any questions about stormwater runoff or Huntington's stormwater management program please contact the Huntington Stormwater Utility at 304-696-4423