

Survey Results

In 2006, the Borough completed the installation of storm drain markers and compiled a statistical survey of the types of litter found in the storm drains. These statistics show how prevalent litter is in our community.

Severity of Pollution (% of storm drains)

- 6% None
- 62% Minor
- 26% Moderate
- 6% Severe
- 0% Extreme

Types of Pollution Found

- 78% Leaves
- 28% Grass
- 26% Plastic (non-bottles)
- 20% Cigarette Butts / Packs
- 15% Paper
- 13% Plastic Bottles
- 11% Tin / Aluminum Cans
- 4% Pet Waste

* 951 storm drains surveyed. More than one litter type found at most storm drains.

The New Jersey Clean Communities program provides grant funds to municipalities to change the attitudes that cause littering and the irresponsible handling of solid waste through public information and education.

The Fair Lawn Recycling Division administers the Fair Lawn Clean Community program by holding several annual litter clean up days, sponsoring educational assemblies at Borough schools, litter enforcement through the award winning Litter Marshal program, and litter education through its award winning educational campaign.

The Fair Lawn Clean Community Coordinator is available to speak to civic groups and schools free of charge. To schedule a presentation, call the Recycling Division at 201-794-5366.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the annual litter clean ups. Volunteers are supplied with gloves, bags, collection sticks, transportation to sites and breakfast. Call today to find out about the next litter clean up day!



Fair Lawn Recycling Division
20-05 Saddle River Road
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410
201-794-5366
litter@fairlawn.org

Storm Drain Litter



How litter affects our watershed

FAIR LAWN CLEAN COMMUNITY



Our Watershed

Water is one of our greatest natural resources. We take it for granted but it is essential for life.

Each year there are reports of polluted waterways, fish and crabs that are unsafe to eat and beaches closed due to pollution. Littering and illegal dumping present a serious danger to our watersheds.

A watershed is the land area from which water drains into a lake, stream, river or ocean.

Fair Lawn has several creeks that drain into the Passaic and Saddle Rivers, which ultimately drain to the Atlantic Ocean. Water from our roadways drain into the storm drains and into the creeks. Unfortunately many people believe that the storm drain water is treated and filtered before it reaches our waterways. This is NOT true. Storm drain run off is untreated and unfiltered.

Litter, debris, automotive fluids, leaves and grass that is washed or dumped into a storm drain will contaminate not only the local creeks but also the Passaic and Saddle Rivers and the Atlantic Ocean.

Our watershed is shared with wildlife that depends on these waterways for life. They include fish, birds, turtles and some mammals.



How You Can Help!

- Adopt a storm drain near your home. Remove debris as it accumulates on top of the grates. This will not only keep our watershed clean, it will reduce the chance of flooding.
- Do not litter. Keep a small plastic bag in the car for garbage and dispose of it properly.
- Do not dump anything into a storm drain. This includes pet waste, automotive fluids, paint, chemicals, grass and leaves. Bring hazardous materials to the BCUA Household Hazardous Waste collection days. For more information call their hotline 201-807-5825 or visit their website at www.bcua.org.
- Report littering and illegal dumping. Either call the police at 201-796-1400 or report it under the Litter Marshal program by calling 201-794-5366 or e-mail "litter@fairlawn.org". Please have the license plate of the vehicle or the name of the person, date, time, location and what was littered. **DO NOT CONFRONT ANYONE!**
- Volunteer to help at the next Litter Clean Up Day. Call the Recycling Division at 201-794-5366 for more information.
- Tell your friends, family and neighbors about this important issue. Pass this brochure along for reuse or call the Recycling Division for additional copies.
- Report broken or sinking storm drains to the Department of Public Works at 201-794-5304.
- Report illegal dump sites to the Police Department.
- Secure your garbage in a can with a tight fitting lid to prevent spillage and animals from tearing open bags.
- Properly secure loads on your vehicle or work trucks to prevent items from falling off.
- Business owners should check their garbage dumpsters each day to correct any overflow problems or illegal dumping.
- Pick up litter in front of your home and in the street daily. Business owners are required by law to keep their store front free of litter.

