

# Stormwater Steward Partner:

## HOME CARE



Do you love being outside gardening, or enjoying your lawn? Improperly applied pesticides, weed killers, and fertilizers can wash into the storm drain when it rains or during over-watering runoff. Neglected or poorly located septic systems can result in an increase of nutrients and bacterial pollution in waterways. When the pollutants get into a storm drain they drain into the ground or directly into the Deschutes River, typically with no treatment at all. Even in small quantities these products can harm plants and animals in the river. Our underground aquifers are an important drinking water source.

“To protect the Deschutes River and our drinking water quality from pollution caused by home and garden care, I pledge to:

- Prevent runoff while watering my lawn/garden by checking and repairing leaks, adjusting my sprinkler heads or drip irrigation, or using a SMART controller.
- Properly aerate my lawn to help get the water to the roots and not running off to the street or storm drain.
- Have a licensed professional inspect and maintain my septic system regularly.
- Watch for signs of septic system failure (standing water, foul odors in the drain field; patches of lush growth and backed up toilets/drains) and immediately repair.
- Keep yard clippings, pet wastes, and trash out of the gutter, away from storm drains. If my pet makes a poop, I will use the scoop!
- Accept a few weeds, and hand-pull weeds when I can. Re-seed thin areas in my lawn to crowd out weeds.
- Use environmentally safe substitutes for pesticides where possible. If I must use a pesticide, weed killer, or fertilizer, I will use the least toxic one effective, use it sparingly, and never apply when rain is forecasted.
- Never pour anything or hose down spills to the storm drain. Use sawdust or kitty litter to soak up spills, and dispose of it in the trash.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You for Becoming a City of Bend Stormwater Steward!*



UTILITY DEPARTMENT



#### Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats and audio cassette tape please contact Karen Morris at 541-693-2141 or email [kmorris@bendoregon.gov](mailto:kmorris@bendoregon.gov).