

Springtime brings more than flowers with those showers

March brings our first taste of spring after the snowiest winter on record. It is a good time to ask ourselves "What happens to all that melting snow and rainwater?" Most of it ends up in our lakes and streams. As it washes across our roof tops, roads, lawns and farmland it is up to us to prevent pollution from salt, fertilizer, manure, leaves, grass clippings, pesticides, oil and other trash. Here are some ways you can help stop the pollution:

- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street and drainage ways.
- Direct rainwater away from paved areas on lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. If you do fertilize, apply according to directions and clean up any spills.
- Clean up pet waste. Bury it or flush it down the toilet.
- Compost your leaves and yard debris.
- Keep your vehicles tuned up and repair leaks.
- Walk or ride a bike whenever you can.
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash.
- Prevent soil erosion.
- Install a rain barrel in your down spout. Order them through Sustain Dane web site at www.sustaindane.org
- Get involved. Join local water conservation groups like Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society at www.kegonsa.org or the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association at www.lakewaubesa.org