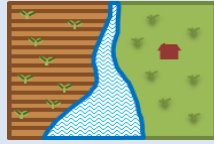


# What Can You Do to Keep Cobus Creek Clean!



## Quick & Easy Ideas:

### Pick up pet waste

*It has bacteria and nutrients that can be bad for the Cobus Creek.*

### Wash your car at a commercial car wash

*These facilities can separate out oil and filter pollutants.*

### Use Phosphorus-free fertilizer

*Soils in the Cobus Creek area are naturally high in phosphorus. Excess phosphorus can cause algae blooms and fish kills.*

### Properly discard hazardous waste items

*Drop them off at the Elkhart County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) at 59530 CR 7 South Elkhart or at the St. Joseph County SWMD at 929 Lincolnway East South Bend*

### Don't drain oil or antifreeze down a storm drain

*These can weaken or kill organisms and accumulate in food chain.*

### Minimize pesticide use

*Try attracting natural predators like ladybugs instead.*

### Water early in the morning or late in the evening

*This is when it is the coolest and less water will evaporate.*

### Do not flush or throw away medicine

*Take unused medicine to the Elkhart County SWMD the first Saturday of the month at 8 am and 3 pm or visit [www.recycle.in.gov](http://www.recycle.in.gov) for additional drop off locations.*

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# Think About Installing...



**Rain Barrels** collect and store rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, then into Gast Ditch or Cobus Creek.

Contact the Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership (ECSP) ([www.stormwaterelkco.org](http://www.stormwaterelkco.org)) to purchase rain barrels—\$50/barrel up to two per parcel or visit the St. Joseph County SWCD website ([www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)) for rain barrel purchase locations.

**Rain Gardens** are bowl-shaped areas planted with beautiful wildflowers and grasses. Water from a roof, driveway, or lawn soaks into the garden rather than rushing to our streams. This keeps pollutants, such as fertilizers, from getting into Gast Ditch and Cobus Creek.



Contact the ECSP or St. Joseph SWCD for more information about installing rain gardens. The ECSP offers financial assistance for plant costs associated with rain garden installation.



**Native plants** are plants that have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region. Native plants are just as important to us as they are to bees and other wildlife of the Cobus Creek Watershed.

Native plants can be purchased at via local nurseries like Naturally Native Nursery (South Bend), Native Connections (Three Rivers), Cardno Native Plant Nursery (Walkerton) or Spence Nursery (Muncie). Both the Elkhart and St. Joseph County SWCDs host native tree sales.

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