

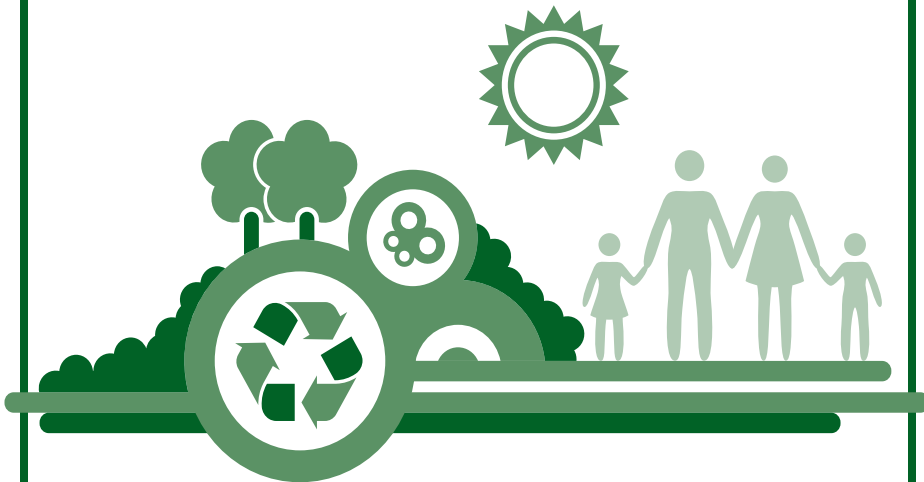
## Show Your Pride and "GO GREEN"

As a community we can make a huge difference for our environment.

To say thank you, we'd like you to have a "GO GREEN" yard sign and/or window sticker to show your neighbors and patrons that you've helped and encourage them to join in the cause.

Bring in a photo, receipt or other proof of what you are doing to "Go Green." We'll give you a "GO GREEN" sign and/or window decal to show your pride and concern.

Thanks,  
*For Westlake, for the World.*



## Save For A Rainy Day

Dennis M. Clough, Mayor

Engineering Department  
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Westlake, OH 44145  
440-617-4145

The City of *Westlake* Ohio  
[www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org)

## Why Should I “GO GREEN”?

Did you know that most of the pollutants in our waters come from the combined runoff of individual homeowners, not from large factories or farms?

Today we are seeing that the way we live affects the environment.

This is especially true with storm water runoff – the water that runs off our yards and into drains in the street. As it flows, it washes off ground surfaces, picking up pollutants and chemicals on our properties that then go into the streams and lakes that our families and neighbors use every day for swimming, fishing and drinking water!

### *“But I’m not polluting.”*

We don’t mean to, but many of our practices around our homes and businesses do pollute the environment. Common sources are:

- Using or overusing chemical fertilizers and pesticides, or applying them right before it rains.
- Not collecting pet waste.
- Washing vehicles on driveways.
- Vehicle fluid leaks.
- Dumping wash water in storm drains or on pavement.



## OK, How Do I “GO GREEN”?

It’s simple – and easy – and may save us some money in the long run.

### Landscaping

- Use organic fertilizers. They create a healthier soil environment by promoting the growth of roots, worms and good



microbes. Chemical fertilizers have been shown to quickly dissolve and become harmful to the soil, worms, aquatic life and humans—especially children.

- Aerate to prevent soil compaction and don’t over water lawns.
- Use porous surfaces for paved areas to allow water to seep into the soil.
- Mow grass to a 3” height and mulch clippings back to the lawn. Fewer nutrients and water will be needed and the clippings can decompose to feed the lawn.
- Install a rainwater garden that collects runoff water and filters it through the soil of the garden.



### Vehicle Care

- Recycle vehicle fluids. Use recycling services at repair facilities or at the city of Westlake Service Department.
- NEVER dump into storm drains.
- Clean up spills and repair leaks.
- Wash cars on grass, gravel or at carwashes where runoff doesn’t go straight into storm sewers.



## Businesses Can Help, Too!

- Businesses can practice the same principles listed above. The city of Westlake Engineering Department offers advice on using low impact paving or design elements that can reduce or treat the runoff from properties.
- Give us a call at 440-617-4145. We’d like to hear from you.

