

GEHR Watershed Minute #11

Stop Litter: (189 words)

One of the problems with keeping a watershed healthy is trying to stop all the littering. Litter is waste that is thrown, blown, or dumped in the wrong place by unlawful human action. Litter has the potential to cause harm to human health, safety and welfare, and the environment.

Litter is a breeding ground for rodents and mosquitoes, which can transmit serious human diseases like West Nile Virus or Malaria. Litter falling off trucks and cars can cause needless deaths and injuries.

Animals may get trapped or poisoned with litter, and trash like cigarette filters and plastic bags have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, and whales which have mistaken them for food. Litter can end up in streams, estuaries, and bays, which pollutes the water and degrades the scenic beauty of our watersheds.

Litter costs us all millions of dollars every year to clean up, and littered recyclable items are a lost resource. Also, clean watershed communities welcome new businesses and jobs.

Stopping the littering is everyone's responsibility. Please do not trash our watershed, and do whatever you can to help clean up our watershed communities.