

# STORM WATER TRAINING

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

### PLAN AND MAINTAIN GARDENS TO MINIMIZE WATER POLLUTION AND MOSQUITOES

- Create gardens in locations far from storm drains or streets to prevent soil and nutrients from washing offsite.
- Sweep soil from paved areas. Properly dispose of waste greenery or keep in a contained compost bin.
- Close and put away fertilizer or soil bags to avoid spilling.
- Turn over or put away buckets and other containers to avoid standing water where mosquitoes can breed.



***Needs Improvement:***  
*Gardens on pavement close to storm drain swale; dirt and irrigation water entering swale*



***Better!***  
*Gardens located away from inlets and surrounded by stable and permeable surfaces*

### AVOID USING FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES 3 - 5 DAYS BEFORE A RAIN EVENT

- Fertilizers and other chemicals take time to absorb into plants and soil
- When using soil amendments always read the manual to avoid overuse
- When possible, use natural soil amendments such as compost and mulch

### REASON FOR ACTION:

Soil, compost, and fertilizers may be good for your garden, but they can harm aquatic ecosystems. Excess irrigation water or rainwater can pick up nutrients and chemicals as it flows across gardens. These pollutants are harmful when washed into local waterways. Municipalities are required to reduce sediment and nutrients, and may look to put more pressure on school facilities to do the same. By following these guidelines, schools can teach gardening while protecting the environment.



*See Reverse for training log*

