

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pollution Fact Sheet

## Industrial Land-Use

- ❑ Industries are highly regulated as to what pollutants they can discharge under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
- ❑ The Clean Water Act has been regarded as one of the most successful environmental laws in the history of the US. It is estimated that only 10% of our waterways are solely polluted from "point source" (industrial) pollution largely due to the industrial discharge permitting system under the CWA.

## Agricultural

- ❑ It takes approximately 500 years to build one inch of topsoil. To grow healthy crops, it takes about six inches of topsoil. This translates into about 3000 years to naturally build up a sufficient amount of topsoil to grow crops – one of many good reasons to try to prevent topsoil runoff into our streams!
- ❑ Conservation tillage, a system of crop production that leaves plant residue (e.g., stalks, plant materials) on the field after harvesting reduces soil erosion by 90%.
- ❑ According to USDA, vegetative buffer zones along streams can remove 60% of pathogens from pastureland runoff.

## Residential

- ❑ One liter (0.264 gallons) of motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million liters (528,344 gallons) of water.
- ❑ It has been estimated that there are 25 to 30 million acres of turf and lawn in the United States; consider that if lawns were classified as a crop, they would rank as the fifth largest one in the country on the basis of area.

## Forestry

- ❑ Use recycled paper- it uses 60% less water to produce and saves trees.

## Recreational-Golf Course

- ❑ Excess fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides can be blown by the wind into waterways and cause eutrophication.
- ❑ Golf courses can be green by making several adjustments. In the city of Springfield, TN, the Legacy Golf Course designed a low impact course which included adding additional trees. Rather than spraying the entire course, the entire turf is inspected to insure that there are indeed pests to be removed.

## Construction

- ❑ According to the 2000 Tennessee "305b" report (a Clean Water Act required state water quality report), siltation is the largest cause of impairment to water quality in the Tennessee streams.
- ❑ Under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendment all construction sites larger than one acre must now have a permit that manages discharge of soil from the site. In addition, the site manager must have a plan to minimize runoff.