

How can water pollution be spotted?

The best way to spot water pollution is for each of us to simply visually inspect the inlets, drainage ditches, and streams in our area. Some specific items to look for that are sources of pollution or that may indicate pollution exists in the area include:

- pouring chemicals, paints, used motor oil or other similar household contaminants into the storm drain inlets
- disposing trash or other waste in streams or creeks
- dumping lawn clippings, leaves or branches directly into streams
- flow in a drain during dry weather; this could indicate illegal dumping or an illicit connection
- spills from traffic accidents or other incidents
- any discolored, foamy or very murky stormwater
- dead animals and/or vegetation around stream areas
- odors from inlets, storm drain pipes or streams



How can you help?

Citizens can take an active part in becoming the solution to stormwater pollution. Taking simple steps to reduce pollution in and around your home will help the City in its mission to improve stormwater runoff.

Below are some simple steps to help reduce pollution around the home:

- Do not apply chemicals to your lawn before a rain storm.
- Always follow manufacturer's guidelines for storage, application, and disposal of household contaminants.
- Do not over-apply chemicals.
- Do not dump household hazardous waste or similar materials into storm drains or ditches.
- Do not throw trash or other materials into storm drains!
- Recycle!

Contact Us

Stormwater Management Program

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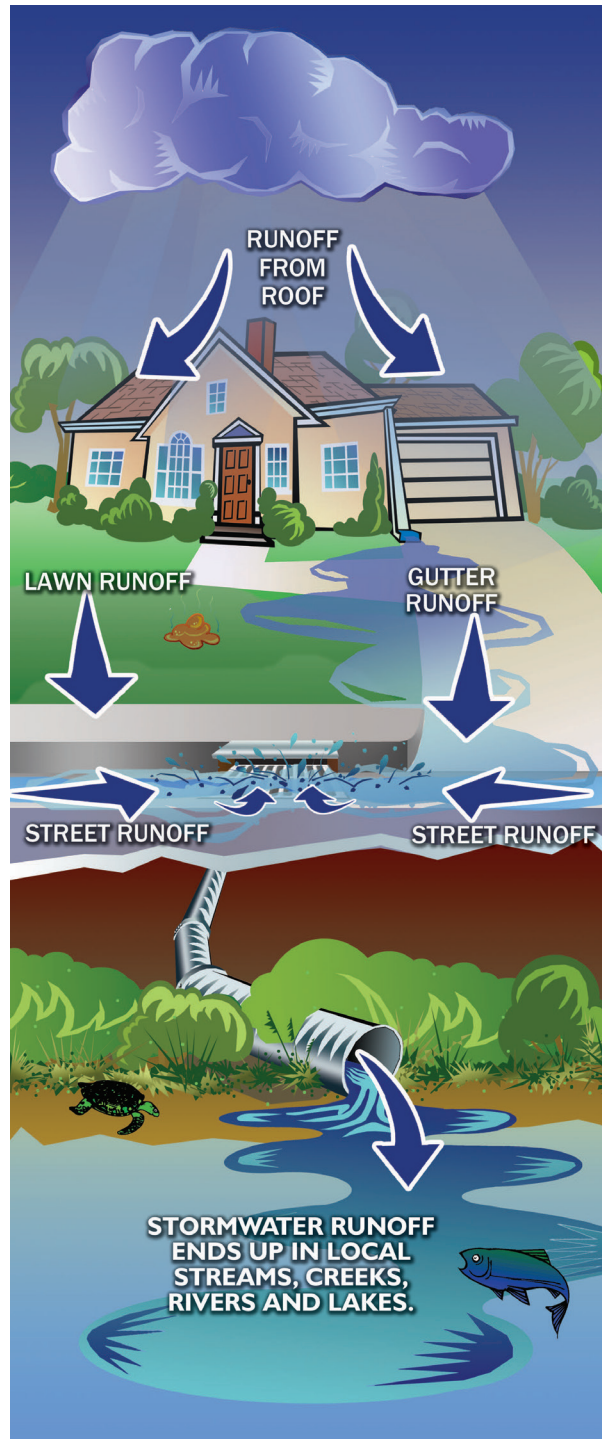
Stormwater Management Program



When it rains, it drains (and Pollutes!)

What is Stormwater Management?

We are all familiar with rain: water falling from clouds onto the surface of the earth. Although rain itself is easy to identify, what happens to rainwater after it reaches the ground is less obvious and dependent on the type of land cover where it rains. Rural areas are made up of natural expanses which allow most of the rainwater to soak into the ground. As a community grows and these natural lands develop, parts of the ground are replaced by roads, buildings and other hard surfaces that no longer allow rainwater to soak into the ground. Instead, the rainwater now “runs off” these hard surfaces, is collected and transported by means of inlets, pipes and ditches and finally ends up in our rivers, lakes and streams without any treatment to remove pollutants.



Does Stormwater runoff create problems?

Both water quality and quantity problems are created as land is developed. Even though the same amount of rain falls on a rural farm and an urban city, the city will have a much larger amount of stormwater runoff since it has more hard surfaces like asphalt and concrete. Sometimes the runoff is large enough to cause flooding and erosion problems due to the rapidly moving water.

The water quality of urban runoff is a major problem because of the pollution that the water collects and washes into the storm drainage system. Unlike waste water in the sanitary sewer pipes that goes through a treatment plant, the storm drainage system empties directly into our creeks and streams. If polluted, it will harm our aquatic environment.

Much of the pollution in stormwater runoff is unintentional. Simply flowing over parking lots, streets and even lawns can pollute our runoff. However, other causes of pollution such as illegal dumping in streams, unauthorized connections to the storm drainage system and spills can be identified, reported and eliminated.

