

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater management simply refers to the management of surface runoff which results from rain or snow melt. Surface runoff/stormwater runoff is water that flows over the land as opposed to seeping into the ground. As stormwater flows, it picks up soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, litter and other potential pollutants, depositing it directly into our local bodies of water.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Perhaps one of the most important factors to consider in stormwater management is preventing water pollution. This is essential to supporting our ecosystem and community health, function and resiliency. Runoff can include bacteria and organic matter from trash and animal waste, oil and grease from leaky cars on the roads, toxic chemicals like pesticides and more.

But also stormwater management can be very effective in reducing and/or preventing flooding and erosion.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Federal, state and local laws govern what can be discharged into our waterbodies and how that runoff must be treated prior to discharge.

Through the Clean Water Act, the EPA developed new regulations to address stormwater that might impact our water quality. This created the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permitting Program for many cities, public universities, department of transportation, hospitals, and prisons. The communities under a MS4 Permit must develop a Stormwater Management Program focusing on six areas such as: public education and outreach, construction site erosion control, public participation and involvement, post construction stormwater management, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Most people don't think that stormwater runoff is an issue until it becomes a personal issue, like flooding. Whether you're a homeowner, tenant, business, or school you can help our waterways and community with stormwater management!

One of the best ways to help prevent water pollution, flooding, and erosion with your own property is to implement stormwater management and there are many great options:

- planting trees
- installing a rain barrel
- limiting impervious (solid paved) areas
- cleaning up pet waste
- planting a rain garden
- cleaning up yard waste
- fixing/cleaning vehicle leaks promptly
- growing a native meadow or 'no mow' area

Additionally, you can educate your neighbors, children, students, friends, and family about the importance of protecting our waterways and preventing pollution.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plants, trees, and soil help to naturally filter water, also helping to improve our water quality.