

# STORMWATER

TIP OF THE WEEK WEEK 37 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2022



## STORMWATER RUNOFF AT HOME



Stormwater runoff is rain and snow melt that flows off building rooftops, driveways, lawns, streets, parking lots, construction sites, and industrial storage yards. Developed areas are covered by buildings and pavement (impervious areas), which do not allow water to soak into the ground. Storm sewers are used to collect stormwater runoff from impervious areas and take it directly to local water ways with no treatment. Some cities, like Nitro, also still have combined sanitary and storm systems and that water goes through treatment.

Stormwater management is the effort to reduce runoff of rainwater or melted snow into streets, lawns and other sites and the improvement of water quality, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In the graphic to the left and the list below you can see ways to add stormwater management to your own property.

### ADDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AT HOME

1. Add a rain barrel to one or more downspouts on your home. This can ease the flow of stormwater runoff during a rain storm and save you water to use later on your garden!
2. Direct your downspouts onto grass so the water can soak into the ground verse running down the driveway.
3. & 4. Instead of laying a solid paved sidewalk or driveway, use stepping stones or pervious pavers. This will also allow more runoff to soak into the ground.
5. Planting a tree or trees can really help more of that stormwater runoff soak into the ground. Plus add some shade to your yard and home.
6. Adding a rain garden to your yard is both beautiful and great for stormwater management. Rain gardens can drastically help reduce runoff flow.
7. A curb cut allows runoff to be diverted from flowing down the street and into a storm drain. Usually they are added in large parking lots to allow runoff to enter a median area with plant life. Always ask your city about this first.