

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 12: March 23, 2021

- EROSION - & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Erosion is the geological process in which earthen materials such as dirt and rock are worn away and transported by forces such as wind, water, plants, animals, and humans.

WHY IS EROSION BAD?

Most erosion is performed by liquid water, wind, or ice (usually in the form of a glacier). If the wind is dusty, or water or glacial ice is muddy, erosion is taking place. The brown color indicates that bits of rock and soil are suspended in the fluid and being transported from one place to another. This transported material is called sediment.



Liquid water is the most major agent of erosion on Earth. Rain, rivers, floods, lakes, and oceans carry away bits of soil and sand and slowly wash away the sediment.

Erosion is a natural process but animal and human activity can magnify the process. When top soil is disturbed or exposed it will be washed away by stormwater runoff causing sediment to enter our water ways.

Sediment can be quite harmful to our watershed. It can affect aquatic and wild life, cause flooding from clogging water ways, and inhibit drinking water purification systems.



HOW TO HELP PREVENT EROSION

Stormwater Management is a fantastic way to help slow the processes of erosion. If you live on a river, stream, or lake take a look at the bank for signs of erosion. Planting native vegetation along your banks is a great way to help ease the banks from washing in, causing sediment from bank erosion.

Doing some work to your property? Be cautious with disturbing dirt and be mindful that if it rains, that it will wash away. Use silt fencing or rolls to keep sediment from washing into waterways or stormdrains. For some projects you may need to contact the City's Building Department to obtain a permit and guidance.

Installing a rain barrel or water cistern to your homes gutter system can help ease the amount of stormwater runoff flowing over the Earth plus give you water for use in your garden later.

Add plants like tall grasses, flowers, shrubs and even trees to your property to help fight erosion. The roots of these plants are much stronger than standard grass and will help keep the ground in place.

Cover disturbed top soil with mulch to ease it from being washed away.

Add a rain garden to your property to help catch stormwater runoff so it can soak into the ground verse run over the ground.

**All photos are examples of erosion.*