

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 34 August 24, 2021

WHY DOES MY YARD AND BASEMENT FLOOD?

Water naturally flows down to find the lowest points it can, but when slopes are too steep or rain falls too hard/quick stormwater runoff doesn't have the time needed to absorb into the ground, and can even skip over storm drains. Plus, storm drains can easily become clogged when yard waste, trash, and debris isn't cleaned up and disposed of properly. Implementing stormwater management practices to your property can help ease flooding to your property but also it can help prevent water pollution to our waterways. Stormwater runoff is sent into storm sewer systems that flow directly to our local waterways without treatment.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater management is a great way for you, the homeowners to ease water flow and help prevent flooding on your property. Implementing any of these preventative measures to your property can help ease water on your home and even help prevent water pollution to our watersheds!

- **Minimize impervious surfaces on your property.** The more solid surfaces your property has, the more water runoff you have to deal with.
- **Catch water that drains off your roof.** This can ease your properties water runoff and give you water to use for your garden!
- **Replace lawn areas with native plants.** Plants will soak up more water than your lawn, so will trees.
- **Plant trees and preserve existing ones.**
- **Install berms and vegetated swales.**
- **Create a rain garden to catch stormwater runoff,** letting it soak into the ground verses flowing down the street to a drain.

BUT ALSO

There is more you can do outside of the most common Stormwater Management practices just mentioned to help ease flooding on your property.

- **Reduce the slope of your yard,** make sure your yard doesn't slope toward your house (if you can).
- **Don't leave soil exposed,** that soil can wash away to clog drains and cause sediment in our waterways.
- **Line impervious surfaces** with gravel trenches or plants.
- **Install a sump pump.**
- **Drain water away from your home.** (But not on your neighbors home!)
- **Install an unground drainage system** on your property but be mindful of where it outlets onto.
- **Clean and dispose of yard waste** properly so it cannot be washed onto storm drains.
- **Keep your gutters clean/clear of debris** and make sure they are in proper working order.
- **Never leave grass clippings and trash in the street.**