

Why is Stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can collect chemicals, sediment, and other pollutants and flow directly into a lake, stream, river, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is released directly into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.



Ben Osborne

Pollution Problems

Pollution from drains can have negative effects on the plants, animals, fish, and humans.

- Excess nutrients cause algae blooms which reduce the water oxygen levels causing fish kills.
- Bacteria from pet waste create unhealthy swimming conditions.
- Debris and litter suffocate fish and plants.
- Human waste like detergents from washing cars, oil spills, and paint solvents also poison the fish.



10 Things YOU can do to help

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in the lake.
3. Seed bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use less toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
7. Take your car to the carwash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.



Protecting our Waterways

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is formed when rain or melted snow flows over water resistant surfaces (rooftops, paved roads, parking lots) and does not get absorbed into the ground. Along the way the water picks up debris, pesticides, and other dangerous pollutants that could have an adverse affect on the local water quality and ecosystem.

Storm drain polluted with natural and unnatural debris

