



We All Live Downstream

A Guide to Urban Stormwater Issues and Solutions Stormwater, Pollution and You

The Connection

In natural areas, stormwater is not a problem. Nature has managed stormwater through the Hydrologic Cycle. Stormwater has been recycled since the dawn of time.

In developed areas, both urbanization and agriculture have altered the Hydrologic Cycle and the natural management of stormwater. People have tried to control stormwater runoff, but in many cases have created greater problems, increasing flooding, erosion and pollution.

Recent legislation has been passed that will require municipalities and developers to install best management practices that will help manage stormwater following the principles of the Hydrologic Cycle. Practices will also be implemented that will decrease non-point source pollution.

Non-point source pollution is all the stuff stormwater picks up as it runs over land to the sewer and eventually the stream. Non-point source pollution includes oil, sediment, nutrients and bacteria from pet waste, chemicals and nutrients from gardens and lawn chemicals, litter, etc. You can help decrease stormwater runoff and prevent non-point source pollution by following these tips.

Urban Stormwater Runoff Issues and Solutions

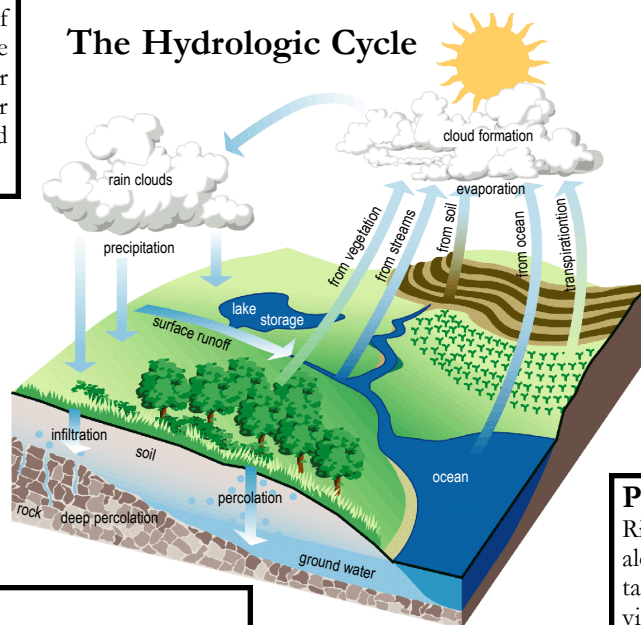
Use a Rain Barrel

Rain Barrels capture and store rain, making it available for watering gardens, washing cars, and other activities that you would use your hose for. The collected rainwater is used in place of your utility or well water, therefore reducing costs. The stored rainwater will not contribute to stormwater runoff, which causes flooding and carries pollutant to our streams.

Minimize Lawn Chemicals

Stormwater can carry pesticides and herbicides into the stream. Try natural lawn care methods instead of chemicals. If using chemicals, make sure to follow directions, and do not apply when the forecast is calling for rain.

The Hydrologic Cycle



Only Rain in the Drain

Never put anything into storm sewers, including oil, paint, soap, debris, leaves, etc. Storm sewers do not go to the sewer plant but discharge directly into our streams. You might be pouring oil into your own drinking water!



Properly Dispose of Hazardous Waste

Do not dump anything down storm drains – they drain directly to the creek! Check with your township for the location of a hazardous waste pickup site or visit your township website for details.

Pick Up After Your Dog

Pet waste can contribute nutrients and bacteria to our streams. In drinking water areas bacteria can form algae, which is costly to treat. These costs can be passed on to you!

Plant Native Trees and Shrubs

Riparian buffers are the vegetated areas alongside streams. They are an important part of the natural ecosystem and vital to the health of streams and their organisms including plants, fish and other aquatic organisms.

Do your part for your neighborhood. Help prevent stormwater pollution and Keep Our Streams Clean!

Additional Stormwater Runoff and Pollution Prevention Tips are available at:

www.delcodd.org
www.dep.state.pa.us
www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox/beta



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Get involved – join a watershed group...

Darby Creek Valley Association
www.dcv.org
Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association
www.crcwatersheds.org
Green Valleys Association
www.greenvalleys.org