



FROM SKY to Stream



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|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rainfall | 5. Sewer system |
| 2. Downspout | 6. Untreated stormwater discharge |
| 3. Stormwater runoff | 7. Local stream |
| 4. Storm drain | |

STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTES LOCAL RIVERS AND STREAMS

Rain falls from the sky, hits your roof and gushes out the downspout, travels across lawns and driveways, flows down storm drains and finally, discharges into a nearby river or stream. As stormwater travels across the landscape, it picks up pollutants like lawn fertilizer, pet waste, trash, and oil from cars. Stormwater is not treated like how wastewater is. Stormwater runoff brings all these pollutants into our local rivers and streams.

YOU CAN HELP KEEP OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS CLEAN!

- **Use rainwater as a resource.** Attach a rain barrel to your downspout to collect rainwater for you to use on your lawn or garden.
- **Help water on your property absorb into the ground.** A rain garden on your property collects stormwater and allows it to soak into the garden instead of running off. Rain gardens are planted with deep-rooted native plants that infiltrate stormwater into the soil and filter out pollutants.
- **Be a responsible neighbor and steward of the environment.** Please pick up your dog's poop, dispose of trash properly, apply lawn fertilizer and pesticides according to the directions, and reduce your use of these chemicals if possible.

POLLUTANT *Spotlight*

Here are a few pollutants in stormwater runoff that contaminate the water and affect aquatic life in local rivers and streams:

- PET WASTE** 
- LAWN CHEMICALS** 
- TRASH** 
- OIL AND GREASE FROM VEHICLES** 