

Remember...

Stormwater is Not Clean Water

Stormwater runoff carries pollutants that seriously harm our waters:

Sediment. Soil particles washed off construction sites or farm fields into a lake or stream make the water cloudy or turbid. When sediment settles out of the water, it gradually fills in the stream or lake bed.

Phosphorus. This nutrient, often attached to soil particles, fuels the growth of algae and aquatic weeds. These plants are important in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. However, rapid and excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants can degrade water quality and interfere with swimming, boating and fishing.

Micro-organisms. Bacteria, viruses and other disease causing organisms make waterways unsafe for swimming, wading and other types of recreation. Some of these organisms, notably Cryptosporidium, are difficult to remove through water treatment and may endanger people who depend on drinking water supplies drawn from lakes or streams.

Toxic chemicals. Motor oil, lead from gas and auto exhaust, zinc from roof drains and tires, and pesticides in stormwater runoff may kill aquatic organisms or impair their health, growth or ability to reproduce.