

## Water Pollution Concerns

As Iowa communities grow, they often experience more stormwater runoff problems due to the increase in impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and streets. Rainfall and snowmelt that would have normally infiltrated into the soil becomes runoff.

Pollutants such as fertilizer residue, pet waste, and motor vehicle fluids collect on impervious surfaces. They are washed off by stormwater runoff that is collected and conveyed through storm sewers directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without being treated.

Street to Stream – No Treatment In-Between



When this happens

- The quality of water entering our streams, rivers and lakes decreases.
- There is an increase in the volume and delivery rate of runoff, that leads to flooding, streambank erosion, and potential damage to public and private property.



## Prevent Water Pollution

There are many best management practices homeowners and businesses can adopt that will help prevent water pollution. Consider adopting one or two of the following best management practices (BMPs):

- Divert your downspouts so they point to grassy areas rather than concrete.
- Make sure you put a lid on your garbage can and recycling lid when set at the curb (to prevent litter).
- Test your soil fertility before applying lawn fertilizer – make sure to use what is needed for your lawn and don't apply excess nitrogen and phosphorus.
- When mowing your lawn, mulch mow or compost grass clippings. In any event, never let your lawn mower "blow" grass clippings into the street.
- Keep vehicles "leak" free to ensure vehicle fluids, such as oil or antifreeze, stay out of our streams, rivers and lakes.

## Infiltrate More ☘ Shed Less

There are also steps you can take to capture and infiltrate stormwater and reduce your property's contribution to water quality degradation and flashy stream flows (flash flooding).

Communities benefit as a whole when property owners retrofit existing properties and new developments have stormwater practices that promote infiltration of stormwater.

Consider adopting one or two of the following BMPs:

- Native Turf and Native Landscaping
- Permeable Pavers
- Soil Quality Restoration
- Rain Barrel or Cistern
- Rain Garden

To learn more visit  
**RainscapingIowa.Org**



Plants native to Iowa need less water, less fertilizer and less care in general compared to turf, and look great to boot!



## LOCAL STORMWATER REGULATIONS

To comply with federal regulations, the City of Waterloo is required, by law, to implement a stormwater management program. Program requirements include:

- Manage stormwater runoff to protect water quality in local streams and lakes.
- Reduce sediment loss and pollution from construction sites.
- Implement ordinances to meet program goals.
- Inspect storm drain outlets for illegal discharges.
- Provide public education and involvement.
- Prevent pollution from municipal operations.

### City of Waterloo Stormwater Management Program

Engineering Department  
715 Mulberry St

#### 24 Hour Spill Reporting Hotline:

8 am – 5 pm Mon-Fri: (319) 291-4312

All Other Times: (319) 291-4553

Online at:

<http://www.cityofwaterlooia.com/illicitdischarge>

Member of the  
Iowa Stormwater Education Program  
[IowaStormwater.org](http://IowaStormwater.org)



INSERT CITY NAME AND ADDRESS

## Drinking, Fishing, Swimming, Wading, & General Recreating

### Depends on Healthy Water Safe for ALL!



Our community is  
adopting programs and  
practices to prevent  
pollution of local rivers  
and lakes.

[IowaStormwater.org](http://IowaStormwater.org)