

Message from Waterloo Water Works

The Waterloo Water Works has partnered with the Iowa Rural Water Association and the City of Waterloo Engineering Department to complete a Source Water Protection Program. One of the main focuses of the project is to inform you, the residents of Waterloo and customers of Waterloo Water Works, about where your drinking water comes from and how you can protect it at home. Waterloo obtains water from wells that are drilled into the ground to remove water from aquifers beneath your feet. These aquifers contain high quality water that is inexpensive to treat. Water that falls on the surface can pick up water soluble materials used on or near the surface before and after infiltration. These materials, such as nutrients not used by plants, can be transported underground and into the drinking water source. Water then naturally moves through open spaces in sand and gravel and fractures in solid rock (bedrock) to a discharge point, typically a river.

When a well is pumping, it changes the natural groundwater movement. Instead of the water moving to a natural discharge point, it is removed from the ground at the well. When a well is close to a river, it is even possible for an aquifer to be recharged by the river. Water that is removed by a well contains materials that were picked up by water molecules traveling to the well. Using conservation initiatives at the surface has been shown to improve and protect groundwater quality.

For more information visit the Waterloo Water Works or Waterloo Stormwater Engineering websites for updates.

Source: USGS Water Education, water.usgs.gov/education.html; Iowa DNR Geological and Water Survey, www.iowasourcewater.org

References

1: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality:

http://deq.ms.gov/MDEQ.nsf/page/Recycling_UsedMotorOil?OpenDocument

2: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

<http://www.ncstormwater.org/>

www.knowwhereitgoes.org

Upcoming Events

Stormwater and Drinking Water Quality: Seeing the Connection

Thursday, December 12th 6:00-7:30 pm
Hartman Reserve Nature Center

Speakers from local drinking water utilities and stormwater management programs will be presenting on conservation impacts and the Source Water Protection Plans which have recently been developed.

2014 Cedar Valley Erosion Control Conference

Tuesday, February 4th 8:00 am-4:00 pm
John Deere Supervisor's Club

The Cedar Valley Stormwater Education Partnership will be hosting its annual Erosion and Sediment Control Conference on February 4th at the John Deere Supervisor's Club where information on new products, regulatory updates and changes to local ordinances as well as field observations from industry professionals will be presented. Meals will be included. Registration is required, contact Ashley Kittle at the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District at (319) 296-4262 for more information.

City of Waterloo
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Waterloo, IA 50703

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

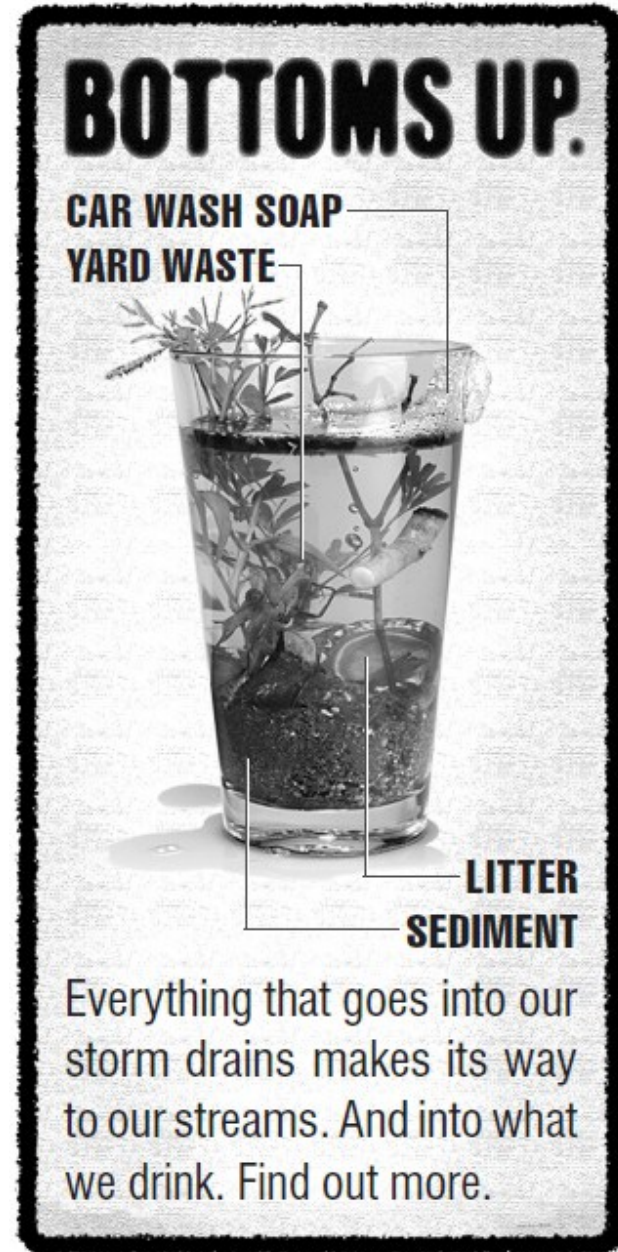
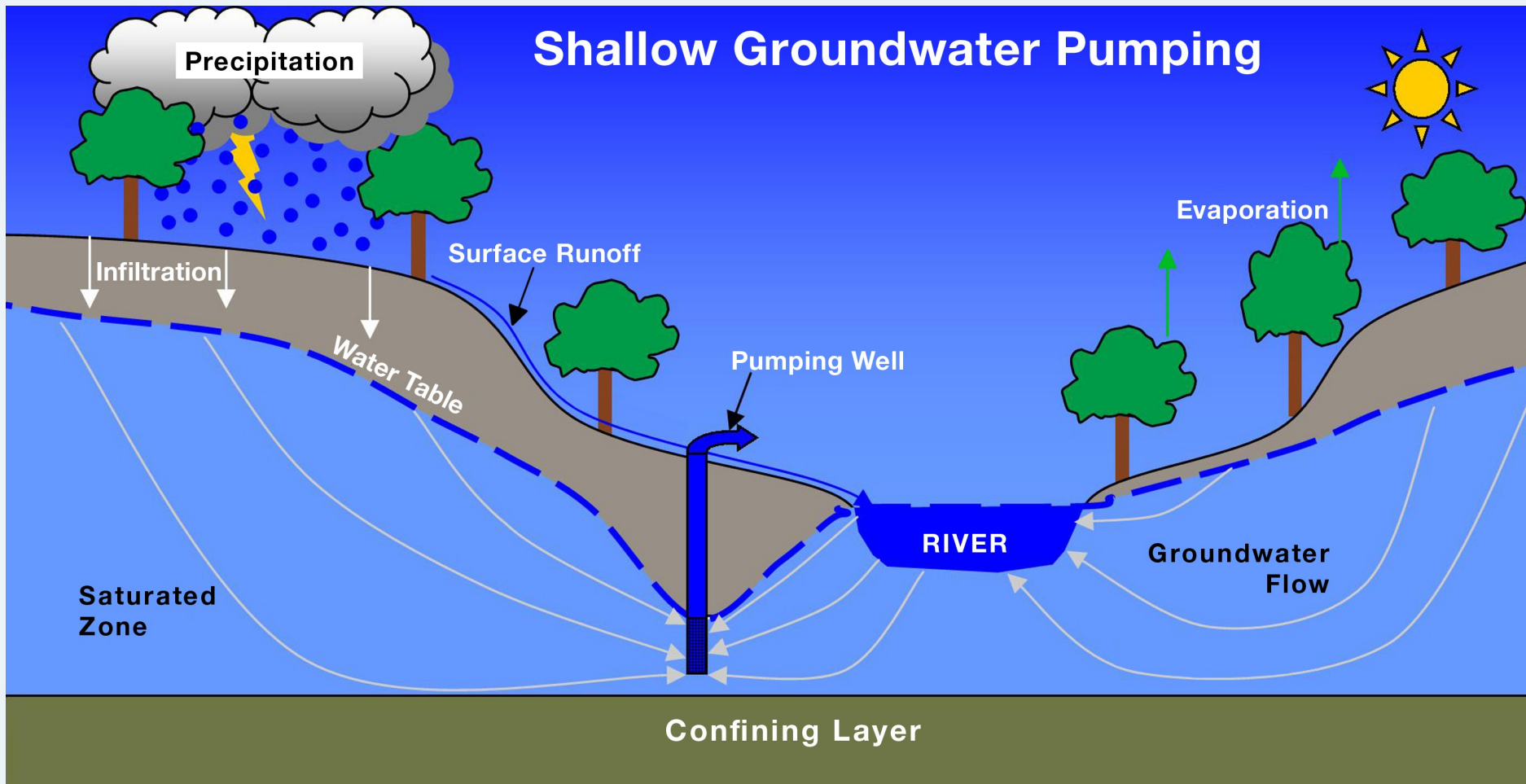


Image courtesy of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Where's your fertilizer going?

Over-fertilizing isn't just a waste of money, it contributes to unsightly algae blooms and pollutes our waters

The Cedar Valley is blessed with a plentiful supply of high-quality drinking water, but did you know that pollutants in our streams and rivers can reach our groundwater and contaminate drinking water sources? Storm water is a major source of the rivers and streams which feed our water supply. However, storm water is not treated before it enters our surface waters, which means that anything we place on the ground might end up in your glass. Here are some quick tips on things you can do to lessen your impact.

Did you know?

One pint of oil can produce a sheen over one acre of water!¹



Properly maintain your vehicle. Oil leaking into the streets makes its way to our streams through storm sewers and drainage ditches. Always properly contain and dispose of automotive fluids and NEVER dump fluids down the storm sewer. Remember: *Only Rain Down the Drain!*

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Vehicles washed on driveways and streets will deliver detergents, dirt and other pollutants into the nearest storm inlet or waterway. Here are a few quick tips on how to keep your car **and** your creek looking good:

- When possible, wash you car on grassy areas, avoiding areas that drain directly into a storm inlet or ditch.
- Minimize water usage. A spray nozzle can control flow, reducing water used and runoff produced.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners.
- Empty wash buckets into sinks, bath tubs or grassy areas.

Want a beautiful lawn and a healthy environment? Here are some tips for an eco-friendly lawn:

- Sweep any fertilizers or lawn clippings off of driveways, sidewalks and roads. Never hose down pavements to clean up spills.
- Always ensure that chemicals are used and disposed of according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't apply more than your lawn needs. Excess fertilizer is harmful to the environment and your pocketbook. When in doubt as to what your lawn needs, have your soil tested. Contact the Black Hawk County ISU Extension Office at (319) 234-6811.