



Water Quality in Our Community

Storm water can pose a risk to our water resources by introducing pollutants into our lakes, streams and rivers. Programs are in effect that seek to restore water quality and limit storm water pollution in our community.



Fall 2011

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AWARENESS & RESPONSIBILITY

Daily Activities can impact water quality. Rainfall drains untreated to streams and lakes through storm drains in neighborhoods. There are many ways you can prevent storm water pollution:

1. Wash your car at a carwash or on the lawn, not the driveway,
2. Re-direct roof drains to gardens or other vegetated areas,
3. Properly dispose of all hazardous household waste,
4. Minimize use of fertilizers, and
5. Clean up after your pets

This brochure is part of the public education campaign for our storm water program and was created with assistance from the Iowa Storm Water Education Program (ISWEP).

For additional information:
www.iowastormwater.org

For more information on storm water programs and ordinances in the City of Waterloo, contact the City Engineering department at (319) 291-4312 or by email at stormwater@waterloo-ia.org



Fall Storm Water Quick Tips

It's that time of year again! The leaves will soon be flying. Here are a few quick tips on disposing of your yard waste properly.

1. Yard wastes include leaves, grass clippings, flowers, stalks and dead plants, as well as small strips of bark, limbs and twigs.
2. Yard waste should be taken to the Easton Avenue "Yard Waste Drop Site"
3. For more information on yard waste disposal visit the Waste Management Department at <http://www.cityofwaterlooia.com/wastemanagement>
4. Help prevent flooding! Clean grass, leaves and other material from street gutters and storm inlet openings. If the inlet is plugged, call Waste Management at (319) 291-4553. When mowing, lawn clippings should be blown back into the yard and not into public roads.

How do urban areas impact our waters?

Urban development results in increases in hard surfacing. These hard surfaces are known as “impervious surfaces” because storm water cannot penetrate them. Increases in impervious surfaces reduce the ability of the natural environment to absorb rainfall and increases stormwater runoff. Pollutants build up on these impervious surfaces between rainfalls. These pollutants are then carried through the storm sewer system and empty untreated into surface waters. These pollutants can include...



Lawn Chemicals

What can we do?

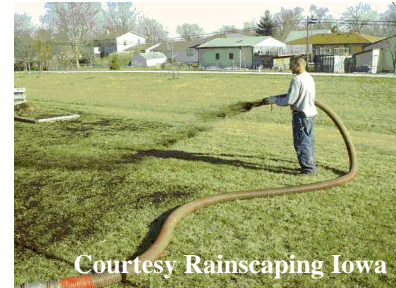
There are many ways that citizens can reduce their impacts on our waters. Sustainable water management, infiltration, and pollutant reduction practices can reduce the pollutant loads being carried by our storm sewers. These practices can include...



Raingardens and Bioretention Cells

Raingardens and bioretention cells are depressional landscaping features which allow water to pond temporarily during rainfall events. The water is then absorbed into the soils where it is filtered and cooled before entering the rivers and streams as groundwater. These can be used to treat storm water runoff from roof spaces and driveways.

These practices are also an excellent way to add curb appeal to your property! For more information on these practices visit www.rainscapingiowa.org or contact the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District at (319) 296-3262.



Courtesy Rainscaping Iowa

Soil Quality Restoration

Soil quality restoration increases pore space and soil organic matter through aeration and compost amendments. This helps to reverse some of the soil compaction typically seen in residential areas and restores the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. Doing so not only improves water quality but also provides nutrients for the grass, leading to a greener, healthier lawn with less need for chemical fertilization.



Rainwater Harvesting

The practice of harvesting rainwater for use for watering plants or irrigating lawns is an easy and effective way to manage storm water sustainably. Rainbarrels or cisterns can be purchased commercially or can be made at home. For more information see:

<http://www.rainscapingiowa.org>



Permeable Pavement

Permeable pavement systems are available in brick pavers, concrete, or asphalt surfaces. These paving systems maximize pore space to allow storm water to flow directly through them. A rock chamber beneath the pavement holds the water until such time as it can be absorbed by the surrounding soils.



Pollutant Reduction

The simplest way to remove pollutants is to stop them at the source. You can do this by washing your car in the grass instead of the driveway, blowing lawn clippings back into the yard instead of the street, sweeping driveways and parking lots, and **never** dumping into the storm sewer.

