

KNOW YOUR WATERSHED

A watershed is like a big bowl.
All rain and snowmelt flows from
the high ground to the lowest point.



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Storm Sewer Pipes Underground



Storm sewer pipes are underground conduits designed to collect and carry stormwater runoff from streets, parking lots, rooftops, and other surfaces to prevent flooding and erosion. This network of piping forms an essential part of a city's drainage system, directing rainwater and melted snow into larger storm drains, retention basins, or nearby bodies of water. Typically made of materials such as concrete, plastic, or metal, storm sewer pipes are engineered to handle large volumes of water quickly and efficiently. By channeling stormwater away from developed areas, these underground systems help protect roads, buildings, and the environment from water damage.

Storm Water Outfall



A stormwater outfall is the point where a storm sewer system discharges collected rainwater into a natural body of water, such as a stream, river, or lake. After stormwater travels through underground pipes and drains, it reaches the outfall, which serves as the final exit for the water from the drainage system. Outfalls are often constructed with concrete or metal pipes or riprap (rock) to reduce the force of flowing water and prevent erosion at the discharge point.

Curb and Storm Drain



The curb along a road plays an important role in directing the flow of stormwater into a storm drain. When it rains, water that falls on the street naturally flows downhill due to gravity. The curb acts as a funnel, guiding the water along the edge of the roadway. As the water moves along the gutter — the shallow channel formed where the curb meets the street — it is directed toward openings called catch basins or storm drains. These drains allow the stormwater to enter the underground storm sewer system, where it can be safely carried away to prevent flooding and water buildup on the road.



Native Trees and Plants

Native plants have deep root systems that filter pollutants from runoff, prevent erosion and infiltrate water. The deep roots of native trees and plants hold the soil in place and act as an anchor. The roots of some native plants can be as much as 15 feet long! Just one acre of native plants can intercept 53 tons of water during an hour long one-inch rain event!



Slippery Elm



Purple Cone
Flower



Rain Barrel

A rain barrel is a simple system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof for later use. It connects directly to the downspout on your house — the vertical pipe that carries rainwater from the roof gutters to the ground. To install it, the downspout is usually cut a few feet above the ground, and a short section of pipe or flexible hose is attached to direct the water into the top of the rain barrel. As it rains, water from the roof flows through the gutters, down the downspout, and into the barrel, where it's stored for later use in watering gardens, lawns, or houseplants. This not only conserves water but also helps reduce stormwater runoff, which can carry pollutants into local streams and rivers.



Non-Point Source Pollution



Nonpoint source pollution is pollution that does not come from a single, identifiable location, like a pipe or factory, but instead comes from many widespread sources carried by stormwater runoff. When rain falls or snow melts, the water flows over streets, lawns, farms, and construction sites, picking up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, litter, and sediment. Because it comes from so many different everyday activities, nonpoint source pollution is one of the biggest challenges to keeping stormwater and our waterways clean.