

CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU

Runoff in your neighborhood

When it rains or after a snow melt in an urban setting, water flows over sidewalks, streets, and parking lots to storm drains and the nearest stream, river, or lake. This is called runoff. Runoff can carry pollution such as trash, oil, and leaves into our water resources. It can cause harm to wildlife and the people who depend on it for drinking water or enjoy recreating on it.

Point source Pollution

Point source pollution is pollution from one identifiable source such as waste coming from a water treatment center or a factory.



Non-point Pollution

Non-point source pollution comes from many sources and usually is a result of runoff.

Examples: oil, grease, pet waste, litter, leaves, fertilizer



What can you do to help:

- Adopt a storm drain and keep it clean. Pick up trash in your neighborhood. Anything that goes into a drain will end up in the Mississippi River. (adopt-a-drain.org)
- Rake leaves out of the street and compost it. Decomposition of leaves and other plant debris can cause an over abundance of nutrients in waterways. This excess amount of nutrients can cause algal blooms and deplete oxygen levels in bodies of water.
- Do not wash your vehicle in the driveway. Repair cars leaking fluid and clean up spills. Any grease or chemicals from motor vehicles that enter a storm drain goes directly into the Mississippi River.
- Plant trees, shrubs, or flowers in bare ground to prevent erosion. Runoff can carry exposed soil into our water resources. Too much soil sediments effect water clarity which reduces aquatic plants' access to sunlight and prevent photosynthesis. This can lead to oxygen depletion which can cause harm to wildlife.



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