

AWARENESS & RESPONSIBILITY

Daily activities can impact water quality.

Most rainfall drains untreated into streams and lakes through storm drains in neighborhoods. There are many ways you can prevent stormwater 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.
5. Clean up after your pets.



This brochure is part of the public education campaign for our stormwater program. The City of Ottumwa is a member of the Iowa Stormwater Education Program.

The Iowa Stormwater Education Program provides educational resources and guidance to member communities about stormwater management.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To report a chemical spill 24-hours a day, call:

- ◆ City of Ottumwa Fire Department
(641) 683-0666
- ◆ Iowa Department of Natural Resources Emergency Response Unit
(515) 281-8694
- ◆ EPA National Response Unit
1-800-424-8802

For information about what can be discharged into a storm sewer or other waterway, or to report suspicious substances in waterways:

- ◆ City of Ottumwa Public Works Department, Streets & Sewers Division
(641) 683-0688 or
Engineering
(641) 683-0680
- ◆ Iowa Department of Natural Resources Field Office 6
(319) 653-2135
- ◆ EPA Region 7
Water and Wetlands Division
(913) 551-7030



Managing Stormwater in Ottumwa, Iowa



Stormwater can pose a risk to our water resources. Pollutants in stormwater can impact lakes, streams and rivers.

New programs to control stormwater pollution are being adopted by the City of Ottumwa.



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF? Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off impervious surfaces like roads, buildings, and compacted soils that are not absorbed into the soil.

Stormwater runoff is collected and conveyed through storm sewers directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without being treated.

THE PROBLEM

Pollutants accumulate on impervious surfaces between rainfall events. Frequent, small rains wash pollutants into streams, rivers, and lakes. These pollutants negatively impact water quality.

As communities grow, impervious areas increase. Larger amounts of impervious surfaces cause the volume and rate of stormwater runoff to increase. This can result in flooding, stream channel degradation, and increased water pollution in our surface waters.

STORMWATER POLLUTANTS

- Sediment and debris from construction sites
- Pesticides and nutrients from lawns, parks, and roadsides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Oil and grease from car leaks, gas stations, and industrial areas
- Trash such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles
- Illegally dumped pollutants
- Antifreeze or motor oil
- Salt and sand from snow and ice control applications
- Illicit connections to storm sewers



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The traditional approach to stormwater management focuses primarily on flood control. Today, the City of Ottumwa is required to manage both water quality and quantity by using practices that infiltrate more rainfall and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff.

STORMWATER REGULATIONS IN OTTUMWA

To comply with new federal regulations, the City of Ottumwa is required to implement a new stormwater management program. Some requirements include:

1. Managing stormwater runoff for water quality protection
2. Reducing sediment loss from construction sites
3. Developing ordinances to meet program goals
4. Inspecting storm drain outlets for illicit discharges
5. Providing public education and involvement
6. Provide retention and controlled release to reduce flooding
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