



Storm Sewers

The Rivers Beneath Our Feet

A SERIES OF WATER QUALITY FACT SHEETS ABOUT STORMWATER RUNOFF

If you look in the street outside of your home or office and search the parking lots around town, you will probably find storm sewer inlets. Did you ever wonder where they go?

A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a wastewater treatment plant. This is not the case. Storm sewers transport stormwater (rain and melting snow) to the nearest river, lake, stream or wetland.

Stormwater often contains materials found on streets and parking lots such as oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet wastes, fertilizers, pesticides, leaves and grass clippings. When these materials enter lakes and streams, they become pollutants that pollute the water, kill fish and close beaches.

Where does the Storm Sewer Go?

The water that enters storm drains typically carries pollutants such as fertilizers, oil, and leaves. Where does it all go? ... It goes into your nearby lake, stream or wetland.

Let's follow STORMIE and see how storm sewers provide a direct link between our daily activities and water pollution in lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.

Follow the simple clean-water tips inside and become part of the solution to water quality problems.



