

Stormwater Matters!

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the runoff water from rain or snow melt. Stormwater picks up litter, sand, bacteria and chemicals as it flows over the land and into storm drains, and it carries these pollutants to our streams, ponds, wetlands and coastal waters.

Cleaner stormwater means cleaner water for drinking, swimming, fishing, and protecting wildlife.

Storm drains have underground pipes that channel the stormwater directly to a nearby water body, whatever flows down a storm drain flows out to the closest stream or pond, usually with little or no treatment. By putting fewer pollutants on the land, stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our rivers.

Keep our Local Waters Clean

Never dump or sweep anything down the storm drains

Maintain your car to prevent fluid leaks

Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals sparingly

Pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash



What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden has a bowl shape to collect the rain that runs off from a roof, driveway, parking area or yard. This 6 – 9 inch deep basin fills with runoff and allows it to seep into the ground in a short period of time. The rain garden plants and soil filter the stormwater and cleanse pollutants that could harm water quality.

Rain gardens are planted with flowers, shrubs, trees and grasses that are easy to maintain and thrive without fertilizers.

Rain gardens attract birds and insects like butterflies and bees that pollinate plants, as well as dragonflies that eat mosquitoes!

Public Works provides a street sweeping service to pick up sand and winter debris so that pollutants won't be washed into the Watertown's storm drains.

It is far less costly to prevent pollution to waterways than it is to clean them up after the fact.

Support community efforts to keep stormwater clean!