

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

Stormwater

During rainfall events, water drains off of roadways and adjacent properties. Water from residential sump pump discharge lines is pumped to the ground surface and must also be collected. This rain water is collected in roadway storm drains, rear yard storm drains, and drainage ditches to be discharged into the Illinois River. In some instances, this water flows through a detention system (basin or pond) which controls the rate of the release (quantity) of this water to prevent flooding.

Water Cleanliness

The management of water quality is governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. Property owners are encouraged to participate in environmentally conscience storm water management, or green infrastructure strategies, such as the use of:

- Green roofs
- Rain barrels
- Rain gardens
- Bioswales
- Permeable Piping
- Dry wells
- Permeable pavement

Contaminants must be properly disposed of and must never be dumped into a storm sewer drain or ditch as these contaminants directly affect the water quality of the Illinois River.

Contaminants include:

- Pet waste
- Oils, fuels, and similar materials
- Soaps, solvents, or detergents
- Winter de-icing material
- Pollutants from lawn and garden care
- Pollutants used in vehicle and equipment operation and maintenance
- Concrete and wastewater from washout of concrete
- Wastewater from washout and cleanout of stucco
- Paint and related décor
- Drywall compound
- Curing compounds and other construction materials
- Toxic or hazardous substances from a spill or other release
- Any other pollutant that can cause or tend to cause water pollution

Please be sure to properly dispose of the above contaminants to reduce the risk of polluting our river.

More information on green infrastructure strategies and how to implement them can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>