

CITY OF FLOWERY BRANCH, GA

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater is the runoff that comes from parking lots, roads and rooftops and flows into our storm drains and streams during and/or immediately after a rainstorm. Stormwater carries nutrient laden sediment, heavy metals, oils, and other materials which have accumulated on the land between rain events and flushes them into streams, rivers, and lakes carrying silt, debris, fertilizer and other pollutants with it. Since stormwater runoff is untreated, pollutants end up in our lakes and other water resources.



Stormwater pollution can impact our drinking water sources, cause adverse impacts to habitat for fish, macroinvertebrates and wildlife, and pose a threat to humans due to the presence of elevated fecal coliform



levels. In addition to adding pollutants to stormwater, urban development increases the amount and velocity of runoff that occurs, so that downstream properties are flooded, channels and streams become eroded over time, and natural beauty and habitat are lost. Uncontrolled stormwater pollution affects the way a stream or other water body looks and smells, making it unpleasant to be near. This can impact the quality of life for everyone living in

and around a community.

Sources of Stormwater Pollution - There are many different types and sources of stormwater pollution. Examples include:

- **Commercial businesses** that are retail oriented or perform services for customers. Examples include auto service shops, gas stations, restaurants and lawn care services. Motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters and cleaners can all be potentially harmful to the environment if not recycled. Oil and grease contain hydrocarbon compounds, some of which can injure or kill aquatic life even at low concentrations.



- **Industrial facilities** that are engaged in manufacturing, production, transportation and/or construction-related activities. Waste generated at an industrial site, when exposed to rain or outdoor watering, can wash into rivers, streams and lakes.

- **Residential areas and neighborhoods** can significantly impact rivers, lakes and streams due to improper disposal of yard clippings, fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides as well as vehicle washing on impervious surfaces that result in the runoff of soapy water and other cleaning chemicals down the street into a storm drain and the nearest stream. Household hazardous wastes in and around a home can cause harm to family members and pets and can also be toxic to local wildlife and fish. Dog waste can be especially problematic and known to contaminate nearby streams, rivers and lakes with unhealthy levels of bacteria
- **Institutions** such as schools, universities, hospitals, churches and government facilities can cause water pollution in the same way that businesses and residents can generate it. The types of waste are similar to that of any home or work environment and if not disposed of or managed properly can cause adverse effects on the environment.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- *Never dump anything down a storm drain or drainage ditch.*
- *Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids.*
- *Throw litter in its place.*
- *Clean up after your pet.*
- *Check your vehicles for leaks (repair them!)*
- *Reduce the amount of household hazardous wastes generated at home.*
- *Compost yard clippings.*
- *Use fertilizer and pesticide only when needed. (Read the label!)*
- *If you wash your vehicle at home, do so on the lawn rather than on pavement.*
- *Tell a friend or neighbor about how to prevent stormwater pollution and get involved in your community.*

REPORTING STORMWATER PROBLEMS

To report a stormwater problem, such as: Illegal Dumping; Suspicious Discharge; Muddy Runoff; Clogged Drainage Structures; Flooding; Stream Obstructions; and/or Structure Repairs, please **contact John McHenry at 770-967-6378**. All reported problems will be addressed during the hours of: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday Through Friday. Call 911 to report immediate emergencies.



Thank you for helping us protect Flowery Branch's critical water resources!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District**
<http://www.northgeorgiawater.com/>
- **Center for Watershed Protection**
<http://www.cwp.org/>
- **Stormcenter**
<http://www.stormwatercenter.net/>
- **Low Impact Development Center**
<http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>
- **Georgia Stormwater Management Manual -**
<http://www.georgiastormwater.com/>
- **American Rivers**
<http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer>

KID LINKS

- **Surf Your Watershed**
<http://www.epa.gov/surf/>
- **Non-point Source Pollution Kids Page**
<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/NPS/kids/index.html>
- **Environmental Kids Club**
<http://www.epa.gov/kids/>
- **Clean Water Campaign**
<http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com/kids/index.html>
- **Kid's Playhouse -**
<http://www.stormwatercoalition.org/html/playhouse/index.html>
- **Stormwater Quality Lesson Plans and Activities**
<http://www.stormwatercoalition.org/html/et/index.html>
- **Make a Water Filter**
<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/waterfilter.html>
- **Droplet and the Water Cycle**
<http://kids.mtpe.hq.nasa.gov/droplet.html>
- **Concentration Game**
<http://www.lbstormwater.org/kidz/concentration/index.html>

