Urban Stormwater

KEEPING POLLUTION OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS

CLEANER. WATER. FASTER.

Did You Know?

When rainwater falls onto impermeable surfaces, like some concrete and asphalt, the water doesn't simply dry up on the surface. It flows into the surrounding area and carries pollutants with it.

You Can Help!

Keep oil and sediment off the road by walking or riding a bike instead of driving. Pick up trash and do your part to keep our city clean!

Learn More!

HOW STORMWATER CONNECTS OUR CITIES TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater isn't like the wastewater that we use in our houses. Unlike water from faucets and toilets, rainwater that drains from our streets isn't treated. Pollutants like gasoline, motor oil, heavy metals, sediment and agricultural chemicals collect on roadways and gutters and are washed into our waterways after heavy rain or snowmelt.

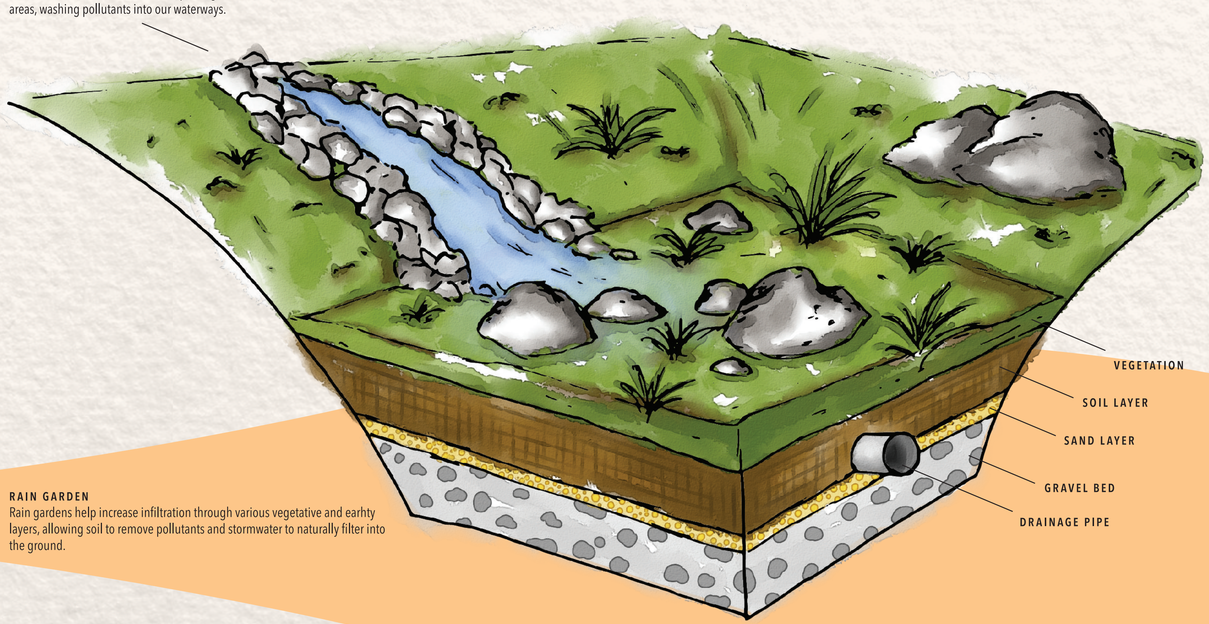
HOW DO WE CURTAIL POLLUTION FROM STORMWATER?

Since stormwater isn't treated by the city, it takes a collective effort to keep to keep our waterways free from pollution and trash. Throwing away trash in designated trash cans as well as carpooling or bicycling can lower the amount of pollutants on streets. Our homes and parking lots make great spaces to curb pollution, utilizing bioswales, rain gardens, and berms to absorb particulate matter and add beauty to the neighborhood.

PREVENTION VS CURE

In most cities, stormwater is not treated. This is because when wastewater treatment systems and sewers were being built decades prior, city planners didn't anticipate the effects of street pollution on the environment. Cities with combined stormwater and wastewater management handle both at once.

SWALE
Grassed swales help slow the rate at which stormwater flows, while simultaneously filtering the water and removing pollutants.



RAIN GARDEN
Rain gardens help increase infiltration through various vegetative and earhty layers, allowing soil to remove pollutants and stormwater to naturally filter into the ground.

University of Idaho Extension
College of Art and Architecture

United States Environmental Protection Agency

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NFWF

City of Spokane

mountaineers foundation