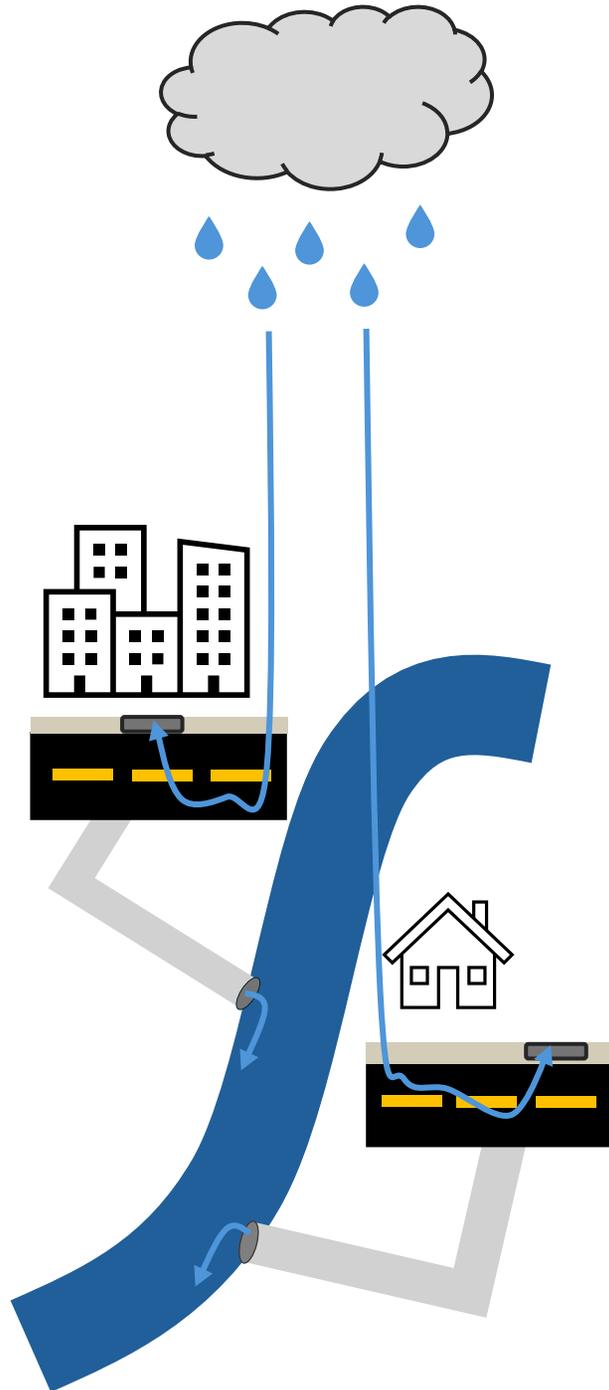


What is stormwater?

- Stormwater is the water that runs off from the earth into streams, rivers, and lakes when it rains.
- In natural settings, like grasslands and woodlands, stormwater seeps into the ground and flows into our waterways gradually.

What happens to stormwater in cities and neighborhoods?

- When it rains in developed communities, stormwater runs off solid surfaces like roofs and streets and into storm drains. These storm drains empty into nearby streams and rivers.
- Stormwater in developed settings flows quickly, which allows it to pick up pollutants as it moves.



Is stormwater clean or dirty?

- It depends!
- Because stormwater runs without treatment from our streets into nearby waterways, **our actions on land impact stormwater and our local environment.**
- Common things that can **pollute** our stormwater include:
 - Litter (including yard debris and dog waste)
 - Chemical leaks and spills (like auto fluids and cleaners)
 - Loose dirt
 - Flushing sanitary wipes down the toilet or pouring oil down the sink (these can cause sewer overflows that can cause untreated sewage to enter waterways)

How can polluted stormwater affect me?

- By reducing biodiversity in streams, rivers, and lakes.
- By degrading ecosystems so that they are less suitable for recreation.
- By contaminating drinking water sources, making drinking water less healthy and more expensive to treat.
- By costing more taxpayer money to clean litter that clogs storm drains.



Together, we can improve our storm water! Here are some steps YOU can take to have a positive impact:

- Throw all your trash in either the trash can or recycling can.
- If you do not have trash pickup service, bring your trash to your local landfill.
- Pick up dog waste and yard debris, and dispose of it in a trash can.
- Only flush poop, pee, and toilet paper. NEVER FLUSH SANITARY WIPES DOWN THE TOILET!
- Bring used cooking oil and grease to a cooking oil and grease recycling center. NEVER POUR OIL OR GREASE DOWN THE SINK DRAIN!

For more information, visit www.jccal.org or call 205-325-8741

Stormwater 101



Jefferson County
Commission