



Where does stormwater come from?

- Stormwater is rainwater and snow melt that flows across impervious or hard surfaces.
- Impervious surfaces do not allow water to soak into the ground.
- The water flows to catch basins or storm sewers which carry it to a nearby natural water body like a stream, wetland, or lake.





Where does stormwater go?



- Most stormwater and snow melt runoff goes directly into Duluth streams and eventually into Lake Superior.
- Stormwater is **NOT** treated before it enters the streams or Lake Superior.
- Stormwater that enters the sanitary sewer system (“I and I”) causes major problems for the City’s wastewater treatment plant (WLSSD).
- Everything that happens on the land in your watershed affects its water quality.



What is in stormwater?

Urban Stormwater contains the following common pollutants:

- Suspended sediments and salts
- Phosphorus, nitrogen and organic matter
- Oils and debris
- Heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, lead, zinc, copper, mercury)
- Fecal coliform bacteria (indicators of pathogens)
- Higher temperatures, pesticides, pH, low dissolved oxygen



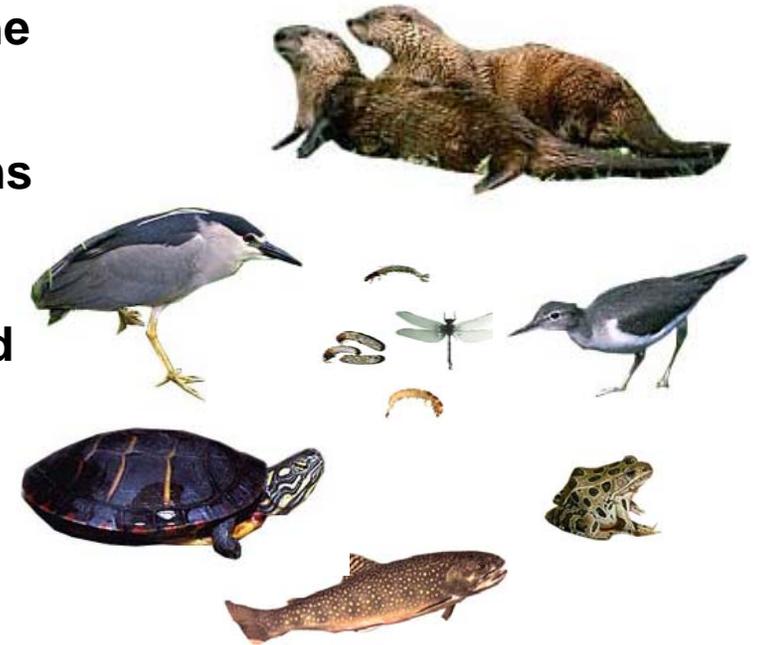
How does stormwater runoff impact streams?

➤ Stormwater runoff increases the amount of water the streams carry which:

- Erodes natural drainage ways and feeder streams
- Straightens meandered streams
- Erodes stream banks and bottoms, scouring and smothering bottom habitats

➤ Degrades habitat for aquatic insects, amphibians, fish and other wildlife

➤ Degrades water quality by increasing pollutants





What can you do to protect your watershed?

- ✓ Take advantage of car washes that send their water to the sanitary sewer so the water will be treated.
- ✓ Decrease the impervious area on your property
- ✓ Look for home methods of treating stormwater
- ✓ Never allow anything but natural rainwater to enter a catch basin
- ✓ Limit your use of fertilizer and pesticides to just what is needed.
- ✓ Store all household chemicals carefully
- ✓ Clean up after pets
- ✓ Don't use creeks, streams and the ravines that lead to them as dumping sites

