

Managing Rochester's Storm Water

STORM WATER RUNOFF: MORE THAN JUST RAIN AND SNOW

Rochester receives an average of 33 inches of rain and 44 inches of snow each year. Rain or snowmelt that falls on buildings, streets, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces cannot soak into the ground. Storm water, as it travels across these hard surfaces, collects dirt, debris, and chemicals that are carried directly into our lakes, streams, and rivers without treatment. Polluted storm water can harm people, aquatic plants, and animals.

FROM THE SKY TO THE RIVER

A vast storm water management system has been built in Rochester to collect and transport storm water away from neighborhoods and businesses and into the Zumbro River as quickly and efficiently as possible. Rochester currently maintains approximately:

- 283 miles of storm sewer pipe,
- 1,860 outfalls
- 9,102 storm sewer catch basins,
- 6,257 storm sewer manholes,
- 45 bridges and box culverts,
- 316 storm water ponds,
- 412 lane miles of City streets, plus
- 84 lane miles of open road ditches and many road culverts.

These constructed storm sewer system elements collect and carry storm water into natural water bodies, including: Silver Lake, the emerging Cascade Lake, 12 miles of the Zumbro River and 53 miles of its tributary creeks.

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING ROCHESTER'S STORM WATER QUALITY

The City of Rochester is one of many communities that must operate under the terms of a Municipal Storm Water Permit. To meet the permit requirements, the City conducts many activities to minimize storm water pollution, including:

- Provide information to residents and businesses about pollution prevention and seek public input on storm water management planning,
- Detect and eliminate prohibited discharges to the storm water system,
- Control sediment loss on construction sites of one or more acres,
- Require grading and drainage plans for all new development to minimize erosion and sediment loss
- Construct retention and drainage systems to control the quantity and quality of storm water runoff,
- Stabilizing creeks and other drainage ways,
- Map the entire storm water system, and
- Reduce pollutant runoff from all City facilities and operations, such as sweeping streets to remove sand, debris and other pollutants.

Keeping it Clean



As our community grows,
so must its commitment to
protecting and improving

the quality of our water resources. Assets such as Silver Lake and the Zumbro River help make Rochester one of the nation's most livable communities. Keeping our water resources clean and usable is in everyone's interest.

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KEEPING IT CLEAN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

We can all do our part to protect our water resources.

At Home:

- Never dump anything in storm drains,
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, and lawn chemicals off paved surfaces,
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers at the correct rate and time,
- Minimize detergent pollution by using a commercial car wash,
- Repair auto leaks,
- Never litter and collect litter dropped by others,
- Direct downspouts away from hard surfaces, collect rainwater in a rain barrel for garden use, or install a rain garden, and
- Minimize impervious surface areas.

At Work:

- Sweep and collect litter and debris from parking lots,
- Cover dumpsters, and
- Prepare control and containment plans to manage chemical spills and practice spill response procedures.

At Construction Sites:

- Prevent erosion by minimizing the amount of disturbed area exposed at one time,
- Divert storm water away from disturbed areas, and
- Install and maintain adequate erosion control tools such as silt fences and vegetative cover.

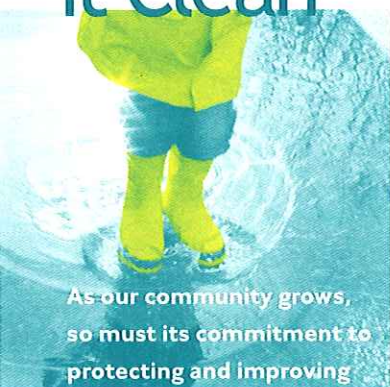
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Review information posted on the Storm Water Web Site:
www.rochesterstormwater.com.

REPORT STORM WATER POLLUTION

If you see illegal dumping, unnatural discharges from storm sewer outlets, or inadequate erosion and sediment control, please call the Rochester Public Works Department at 328-2440 or submit an e-mail report at:
www.rochesterstormwater.com/contact/form/Contactus_PollutionReport.aspx

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