



What Happens to Storm Water Runoff?

Hard surfaces like roof tops, driveways and streets prevent rain from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, this water will run off the land and go down the storm drain, and often times, down to the stream untreated. This water can pick up and float pollutants such as trash, gas, oil and salt from pavements, and fertilizer from lawns down the river. Heavy rains cause storm water to flood our homes and businesses. It can also create issues like sewage overflows. You can help reduce storm water runoff by keeping the water on your property and prevent as much as you can from taking pollutants to the storm drain. Install a rain barrel and use the water you catch for your garden – saving you money! Disconnect your downspouts from existing standpipes and let rain flow downhill over landscaped areas or your lawn. For more information, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit www.americanrivers.org.