

STORMWATER NEWS

Town of Spring Lake

Remember: it's not just stormwater – it's your drinking water

Welcome

Welcome to the new Town of Spring Lake Stormwater Newsletter. Our goal is to publish on a quarterly schedule. We wish to provide the citizens of Spring Lake with updates & information on stormwater projects that have been completed and/or are in the works as well as to provide tips on how everyone can assist in keeping our streams and waterways clean. This inaugural issue will contain general information on what stormwater is and why keeping it clean helps to keep our streams clean and running smoothly. Think of this issue as an introduction to stormwater, while subsequent issues will contain more in depth articles on specific topics such as illicit discharges, yard care, vehicle maintenance, oils and grease, and even beaver dams.

What is Stormwater?

In its simplest term, stormwater is rain or other precipitation (snow, sleet, hail). In a perfect world, a majority of the water is absorbed into the ground, recharging the ground water and the remainder is left to flow into lakes, rivers and streams. In a more urban environment, the construction of parking lots, buildings and roads prevent the absorption of water into the ground leading to cities installing stormwater collection systems (which can be traced back to ancient Greece). Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants, these pollutants can flow into a storm sewer system or

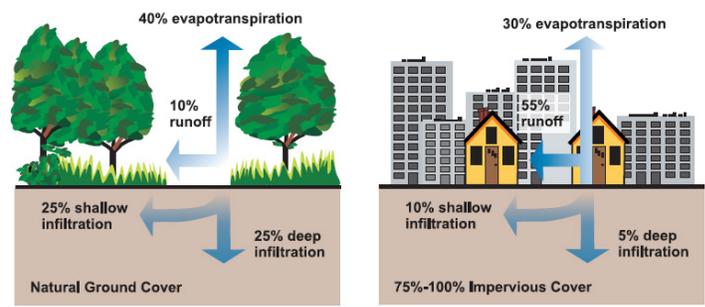
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The Town of Spring Lake wants to provide an ideal place to live, work and raise a family. To do this, we need your help. If you notice any issues regarding the stormwater system, please let us know by calling (910) 703-8909 to report any problems.

The Town will also provide stormwater education to any school, civic organization, homeowners association or any other group or individual who is interested in learning more.

directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated, into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.



Comparison of stormwater with and without impervious surface



The Effects of Pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

- **Sediment** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- **Excess nutrients** can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- **Bacteria and other pathogens** can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

- **Debris** – such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts, washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- **Household hazardous wastes** like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

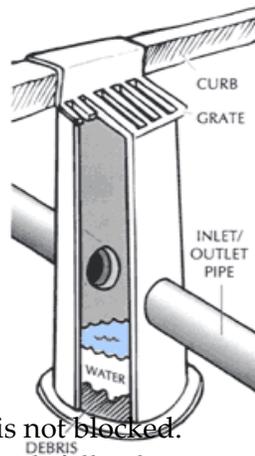
Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Storm Drains

Storm drains or catch basins are the grated structures you see on almost every street.

They are storm sewer inlets - typically located next to street curbs - that are the entryway from our streets to our stormwater facilities. Storm drains have grids to prevent large objects from falling into the sewer system. However, the bars are fairly widely spaced so that the flow of water is not blocked. When storm drains get clogged with fallen leaves and debris, water can no longer be drained from the street. Water ponds along streets and can flood intersections and homes. Localized street flooding can be a hazard to the traveling public.

For example: Oil dumped into a catch basin can have almost unthinkable consequences. If it reaches a river, lake, or stream, five quarts of oil can create a slick as large as two football fields and persist on mud or plants for six months or more.



How you can help keep catch basins clean

The following simple actions can help keep streets open and catch basins clean:

1. Monitor the storm drains near your house or business, especially prior to a rain event and after a snow and ice event. Notify the Town at (910) 703-8909 if a catch basin grate is blocked or the basin itself is full of debris.
2. Do not try to remove the grate.
3. Do not rake or blow leaves or grass from your yard into the street. Place them at the curb and prepare them for curbside pickup by the Town.
4. Dispose of waste in trash receptacles instead of sweeping it into the gutters or catch basins.

