



The City of Westfield Stormwater

What is it?

Stormwater Runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground without being absorbed, in other words it *runs off* the surface. As *runoff* flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Runoff can flow into storm sewers first, or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or other water body.

Storm Sewers are pipes dedicated to transporting runoff to lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, or other water bodies, with little or no treatment to remove pollutants.

Stormwater Management attempts to reduce the amount of runoff created, keep that runoff clean of pollutants, and transport it safely through storm sewers and other flow paths to receiving water bodies.



Why is it important?

Improperly managed stormwater can cause flooding and washouts, and can pollute our waterways. This can adversely affect plants, fish, animals, and people. Fertilizers, pet waste, household chemicals, automotive oil and antifreeze, sediment, and debris can all disrupt the balance of life in our waterways and make drinking water sources difficult and expensive to treat.

It's the law: The Clean Water Act, NPDES program, Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and Water Quality Certification Regulations (314 CMR 9.00), City of Westfield Street and Sidewalk Ordinance Ch. 16-7, 16-109, and 16-110.

Do:

Direct downspouts and roof leaders away from paved surfaces and onto lawns to reduce the amount of runoff generated and increase infiltration.

Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping to prevent these materials from becoming pollutants by blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies.



Dispose of chemicals properly: Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids. Use hazardous substances like paint, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, clean up spills immediately and dispose of waste safely. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant to reduce the need for watering and minimize the need for fertilizer and pesticides.

Don't:

Don't put pet waste down the storm drain. Avoid public health risks, pick up and flush it instead.

Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run into storm drains.

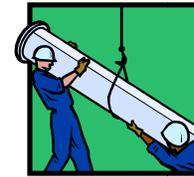
Don't drain chlorinated pool water into the storm drain. Instead, consult the City Water Pollution Control Department for advice on safe pool water disposal.



Don't hose down areas of construction or yard debris. Instead, sweep up and dispose of these materials properly.

Don't apply pesticides and fertilizers if it is going to rain. Otherwise apply sparingly and follow recommended amounts.

Stormwater Fee



The City of Westfield Stormwater Fee is in place to support improvements and repairs to our city-wide stormwater management systems. These systems are necessary to help the

City maintain compliance with our federally mandated United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

Infrastructure Facts

Westfield has more than 720 streets (totaling over 250 miles in length) with 117 linear miles of storm sewers, and over 300 outfall pipes discharging stormwater to many various waterways. The City's infrastructure is constantly aging, and many of our original sanitary sewers and storm sewers are over 100 years old. Repairs to underground infrastructure and drainage pathways can be both difficult and costly, and the stormwater fee is designed to help cover these costs.



Contact Us

For more information on your Stormwater Management System contact:

City of Westfield
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59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085
413-642-9397.

Or go Online:

www.cityofwestfield.org/index.aspx?nid=233

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/stormwater.html#8>

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater