

Our stormwater system

Water that results from heavy rains or snow and overflows is called **stormwater**.

Where does rainwater go?

In natural areas, rainwater is absorbed into the ground.

In cities, we have “impervious surfaces” like roads and sidewalks that cannot absorb rain. This stormwater is collected by a system of catch basins and stormwater pipes that carry the water to local streams.

When there is too much rain, the stormwater system can be overwhelmed – the result is flooding.

Why should we worry about stormwater?

Stormwater picks up contaminants such as mud, fertilizer, pet waste and oil from cars as it moves through the city. Some of these contaminants are removed through natural filtration systems – but many still end up in our local streams.

What can I do?

Everyone in Ashland can help protect our local streams by keeping contaminants out of our stormwater system.

Learn more inside!



Keeping contaminants out of our local streams and rivers is a job for everyone



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Protecting Our Streams in Fall and Winter



Did you know?

Water and contaminants in storm drains go straight into local streams

Keeping our community and local streams clean

1 Keep leaves and yard waste out of storm drains



Leaves and other debris can clog up the storm sewers that carry rainwater out of the city. Yard waste that makes it through the storm sewer system ends up in our streams. You can **help local streams by collecting and bagging your own leaves.**

You can compost at home, or have your leaves composted by Recology through free leaf drop off days or paid curbside pick-up in a Green Debris Bin or pre-paid paper leaf bag.

2 Clean up after de-icing sidewalks and driveways



Chemicals used for de-icing are washed into the stormwater system when it rains. Once it's in the environment, it changes the chemistry of natural systems.

Shoveling is the best choice for healthy streams and a healthy body. Other options include sand, calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), and corn byproducts. After the ice and snow have melted, sweep up any leftover de-icing agents so they do not enter the stormwater system. The best way to keep our local streams clean is to prevent contaminants from getting into the system.

3 Scoop your pet's poop!



Pet waste contains bacteria and pathogens that end up being carried by rainwater into the stormwater system. **Pet waste belongs in the garbage.**

Be a good neighbor – clean out your storm drain if it's clogged!



If a storm drain on your street is clogged with leaves or debris, lend a hand. You can clean out the drain with a rake, if you are able to do so safely. This matters most when it is raining or during a storm.