

Storm Water Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In

What is Storm Water Runoff?

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.



Why is Storm Water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or 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 providing drinking water.

How Can YOU Help to Slow It Down, Spread It Out, and Soak It In

Your city is working with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District to reduce storm water runoff by installing rain gardens, hosting rain barrel workshops and providing opportunities to learn about the effects of storm water. Check out their website for more information www.cuyahogaswcd.org.



**For more information, watch the new 9-minute video
by the Environmental Protection Agency
“Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In”
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/video.html**

The video highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and rain barrels that help manage storm water runoff in a more sustainable manner. The goal is to mimic the natural way water moves through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff at the site instead of letting it run off into the storm drain. The green techniques, including rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels and cisterns, are very effective at reducing the volume of storm water runoff and capturing harmful pollutants. These green practices increasingly are being used across the country to help protect and restore water quality.