

What is Storm water Runoff?

Storm water runoff occurs when the precipitation from rain 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 the storm drain system and go directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming or fishing, etc.

The Effects of Pollution

Polluted storm water runoff can have an adverse effect 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.

Garbage Pollution

Debris, plastic bags, soda rings, bottles, and cigarette butts washed in water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.



Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

Swimming Pool and Spas

Whenever possible avoid draining your pool or spa into a lake, stream, or river. Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks or spills preferably in a cover area to avoid exposure to storm water.



Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste like insecticides, pesticides, paints, solvents, used motor oil, antifreeze and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish or ingesting polluted water. Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. This can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment cost.



Construction Runoff Pollution

Sediment erosion from construction activities pollutes lakes, streams and wetlands. Controlling erosion can significantly reduce the amount of sedimentation and other pollutants transported by runoff from construction sites. Typical sediment control practices include physical filtration of sediment by trapping soil particles as water passes through a silt fence, drop inlet screen, fiber roll, etc. and settling processes that allow sediment to fall out such as a pond, traps, or in small pools created by berms, silt fencing. If you have any questions contact the Rapides Parish Police Jury or view the Storm Water Ordinance at: www.rppj.com.

