

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can create fast moving waterways in the street where you live, in your backyard, or down your driveway. It flows over yards, sidewalks, streets, lawns, fields and parking lots directly into our streams, lakes and rivers.

So, what is the problem with that?



The most dramatic consequence of stormwater runoff is *flashflooding* and the damage it brings.

As land is built up and developed, more and more stormwater runs off directly to streams or rivers - *way more water than streams and rivers can hold* - the additional water overflows and flood streets, businesses and homes.

Yet flooding is not the only impact!

Stormwater runoff also carries dirt, grime, fertilizers, oil, gas and everything else we leave on the ground directly to our water bodies.

Stormwater runoff can result in:

- Rivers, lakes, and streams that may be too dirty to fish in, swim in, or water too dirty to drink
- Lots of fecal bacteria in the water
- Excess nutrients in the water causing algae blooms, fish kills, and increased water treatment costs.



How Do We Manage Stormwater Quality?

Efforts to reduce stormwater pollution in your area are beginning as a result of federal mandates connected to the Clean Water Act. After decades of work to control concentrated sources of water pollution (think factory pipes discharging chemicals in a river), the federal government is now making “non point” runoff a priority. It is called “non point” because there is no one single location where the pollutants come from. Instead, the pollutants are everywhere you find people, because people and animals are the primary source of this type of water pollution.

What is NPDES Phase II?

Certain communities are required to take steps to reduce their runoff pollution. The communities are chosen based on population density, fast growth and/or a location near sensitive waters. These communities are sometimes called “Phase II Communities”. Newly issued Phase II stormwater permits require communities to be responsible for the quality of the stormwater that drains from property, flows into their storm sewer systems and discharges to state waters. The stormwater rules recognize that stormwater generated from one area often becomes drinking water for a downstream community.

What are the Phase II Requirements?

The Stormwater Permit requires your community to implement a comprehensive stormwater management program that address the following six main elements:

- Public Education
- Public Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post Construction Stormwater Management
- Good housekeeping in Municipal/ County operations

To address these elements, your community will develop an action plan and institute Best Management Practices (BMP’s) that work towards achieving the goal of clean water. These BMP’s can be as simple as educating the public about fertilizer application on their lawns and as complex as engineered facilities to treat stormwater.

Stormwater Education Partnership

Alamance County	Gibsonville
Davidson County	Graham
Randolph County	Green Level
Archdale	Haw River
Asheboro	High Point
Burlington	Lexington
Elon	Mebane





Why me?

Why do I have to pay
for it?

Everyone contributes to stormwater pollution problems - everyone must be part of the solution. All real property experiences stormwater run-on and runoff regardless if a drainage concern exists on that specific piece of property or not. Even if your property has never flooded, the stormwater that flows off your property must be managed so that it does not contribute to flooding or pollution in areas downstream. Whether you live in a condominium, a suburban home or in an urban setting, stormwater is an issue.

What do stormwater fees pay for?

NPDES Phase II is an unfunded federal mandate that requires many of our local governments to implement a comprehensive stormwater management program. Recently, your elected officials implemented a fee to fund the stormwater management program in your community in order to be compliant with federal and NC state regulations, safeguard your community through improving drainage systems, and to improve stormwater runoff pollution of local waters.

For more information about the City of
Graham's Stormwater Management
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www.cityofgraham.com/stormwater.htm



Be **STORMWATER** Smart!



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The City of Graham
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