

STORMWATER TREATMENT

When rain and snow fall in a natural area, the water is absorbed and filtered by the trees, plants and the ground. But when rain falls on hard surfaces, like streets and buildings, it cannot be absorbed.



Photographs: (1) (2) WI Dept. of Natural Resources File Photos; (3) Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; (4) Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers.

Stormwater is the rain that falls on the hard surfaces and collects dirt, salt, garbage, pet waste, oil from cars, and other pollutants. Have you ever watched stormwater flow into storm drains? That dirty water may flow directly into our rivers and lakes, making fishing and swimming unsafe.

Stormwater runoff is a major cause of pollution in our waterways. This park has been designed to clean stormwater runoff before it enters the Menomonee River by going through the following steps:

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Direct your downspout into a rain garden or rain barrel. Contact the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for more information.

1. Water that falls on the buildings, streets, sidewalks, and parking lots flows toward a filtration area.



2. Pipes carry filtered water into an open, marshy area.

3. Native grasses, shrubs and trees absorb the filtered stormwater runoff.

4. Finally, water soaks into the ground and is filtered even more before flowing into the Menomonee River.

By the time the rain that falls in this park reaches the Menomonee River, at least 80% of runoff pollutants have been removed.

