

Climate Change Impacts

Stormwater Runoff

The earth's climate is changing and this is increasing the amount and intensity of rainstorms in Worcester.

Storm Water Runoff

- The increase of rain is causing an increase of the amount of "Storm Water runoff".
- Storm Water Runoff is the rain water that runs off impervious surfaces (such as roofs, roads, and parking lots) and flows into storm drains then directly into our lakes, ponds and rivers.

Impervious Surface: A surface that is impossible for water to penetrate through, such as roofs, driveways, or pavement.

Pervious Surface: A surface that allows water to penetrate, such as soil, grass, or gravel.

Pollution

- Storm Water Runoff collects pollutants such as chemicals, oil, trash, fertilizer, pesticides, and dog feces and washes them into storm drains and then into rivers and oceans. This makes these waterways unhealthy for fish and aquatic insects to live, as well as unhealthy for humans to fish and swim.

Flooding

- The increase in rain and magnitude of impervious surfaces in Worcester also increase the likelihood of flooding. Storm drains can only hold a certain amount of water flowing into them at once.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF STORM WATER RUNOFF IN OUR COMMUNITY TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND FLOODING.

Helpful Resources for Worcester Residents

Main South Community Development Corporation

www.mainsouthcdc.org

Blackstone River Watershed Association:

www.thebrwa.org

Blackstone River Coalition:

www.zaptheblackstone.org

The Massachusetts Audubon Society:

www.massaudubon.org

Worcester Tree Initiative:

www.treeworcester.org

Regional Environmental Council:

www.recworchester.org



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Storm Water:

What You Can Do to Reduce Flooding and Pollution in Main South



It's as easy as this!



What Can YOU DO to Help?

Redirect Your Downspout!

Did you ever consider how much water runs off your property during a rainstorm?

Does your gutter's downspout release onto an impervious surface or a pervious surface?

- Re-directing your gutter onto a pervious surface is very easy and cheap, and will help decrease the amount of Storm Water Runoff off from your property.



Install Rain Barrels!

A **Rain Barrel** is a system that collects and stores rain-water from your roof that would otherwise become Storm Water Runoff.

- Rain barrels are easy to install, inexpensive, and are a simple way to immediately help reduce the storm water run-off impact in your neighborhood.
- You can use the water collected by your Rain Barrel to water your household plants, your garden, your lawn, your trees, or wash your car.
- Using rain water instead of tap water saves money on your water bill.



Install Rain Gardens!

A **rain garden** is a garden that is intentionally planted to soak up and intercept Storm Water Runoff before reaching impervious surfaces.

- Mostly designed to intercept the rain water from your roof, Rain Gardens help the rain seep naturally into the ground.
- By reducing the amount of storm water runoff and the amount of water entering the storm water system, Rain Gardens are a great way to prevent the flooding of our neighborhoods and the polluting of our rivers.



Plant Trees!

Trees are a great way to reduce storm water run off.

- The leaves and branches intercept and store rain which reduces the storm water runoff and delays the onset of peak flows.
- The tree roots reduce storm water runoff by increasing the capacity of the soil to store water.
- Planting trees is a beautiful and effective way to reduce pollution and storm water run off in Main South.



What Else Can YOU DO?

- **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

When it rains, dog feces is collected by rain and brought into the storm drains and local waterways, causing pollution.



- **DON'T LITTER**

Trash is also collected by the rain and deposited directly into our rivers and oceans.

- **WASH YOUR CAR AT THE CAR WASH**

Gasoline, oil, and exhaust residues are washed into storm drains when you wash your car outside. If you must wash your car outside, make sure to wash it on a Pervious Surface.

- **NEVER DUMP IN THE STORM DRAINS!**

Every storm drain eventually leads to a river, lake or ocean. Everything you dump in the storm drain enters our water ways, causing pollution.

- **DON'T OVER FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN**

Rain water washes excess fertilizers from lawns onto pervious surfaces and is then collected by Storm Water Runoff. Fertilizers have high nutrient levels that cause excessive weed growth and can kill aquatic life.

Every little bit helps. If everyone in Main South makes these small changes, we can make a huge difference in the quality of life in our neighborhoods.