Stormwater Pollution Prevention

What is Stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces such as rooftop, driveways, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Storm Sewer System

The primary purpose of the storm sewer system is to carry runoff away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Stormwater runoff flows directly into ponds, ditches, and Red River.

Stormwater Pollution

As runoff occurs pollutant such as dirt, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, automotive fluid, and other pollutants flow into the storm sewer system. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is untreated and discharged into the Red River.

The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on ponds, ditches, the Red River; as well as plants, fish, animals, and people.

- Household hazardous waste can poison aquatic life and pollute the drinking water supply
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms
- Plastic bags, bottles, and cigarette butts that get washed into waterways can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life such as ducks, fish, turtles and birds

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many routine activities conducted at your home can have significant negative impacts on the Red River. Through simple measures at home, you can help protect our waterways.

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute the storm sewer system.

- Don't over water your lawn
- Do not blow or rake grass clippings, leaves or other yard waste into the street or gutter
- Recycle yard waste or start your own compost pile
- Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorous free
- Sweep up excess fertilizers and dispose of property

Residential Landscaping

Erosion from a single family residential lots individually may not pose a significant risk; however, numerous residential lots, as found in most subdivisions, can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the storm sewer system.

- Do not place piles of soil, mulch, or other landscaping materials in the street
- Cover stockpiles or provide erosion and sediment control devices on landscaping materials
- Sweep up work areas prior to storm events to prevent materials from being washed into the storm sewer system

Household Hazardous Waste

Many commonly used household products can be hazardous to the environment, as well as people and pets. Properly dispose of left over products at the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility.

- Use and store products according to the instructions
- Keep chemicals in the original container or properly label
- Buy only what you intend to use

Automotive Care

Washing your car and degreasing parts at home can send detergents, oils, and other automotive fluids into the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids such as oils, gasoline, and coolants into storm drains or onto the ground has the same effect as dumping them directly into the Red River.

- Use commercial car washes that treat or recycle their wastewater, or wash your car in your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground
- Perform routine maintenance on your vehicle to prevent leaks
- When leaks are found, have them repaired immediately
- Properly clean up fluids that have leaked
- Properly dispose of automotive fluids
- Utilize commercial oil change companies and auto part stores who will accept your use motor oil. Motor oil is banned from Minnesota landfills

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet;

- Carry a bag to pick up after them
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently
- Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways.

**24 Hour Stormwater Hotline
218.299.5386**

E-mail stormwater@ci.moorhead.mn.us
Website www.cityofmoorehead.com