

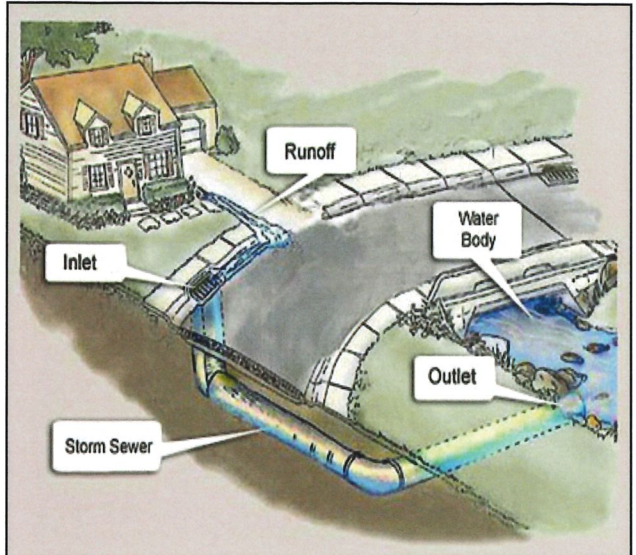
Storm Water 101: The Rundown on Runoff



What is Storm Water Runoff?

Storm water runoff is precipitation or snowmelt flowing over the land surface.

Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, rooftops, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.



Why is Storm Water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flows directly into the nearest water body or into a storm sewer. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water: the Black River and Lake Erie.

Brought to you by:

The Lorain County Storm Water Management District

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The Effects of Storm Water Runoff in Our Watershed

Lack of storm water management leads to an increased flooding as areas no longer have the permeable surface to deal with the excess water flow. Flooding related to storm water is difficult to fix and costly to homeowners.

Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow, clogs the gills of fish, and destroys aquatic habitats.



Excess nutrients from fertilizers and failing home septic systems can cause algal blooms, some of which may be toxic to humans. Decomposing algae from blooms removes oxygen from the water and can harm or kill aquatic life. Bacteria from failing septic systems and animal waste can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. Lorain County communities get their drinking water mainly from Lake Erie but also from two locations in the Black River. Removing pollution from drinking water is costly, and water can only be drawn during certain times because it's too expensive to treat otherwise.