

Stormwater Management

Note: All local governments in the Metropolitan-Atlanta area are required to manage stormwater under the Federal Clean Water Act. In an effort to meet this requirement, Union City is implementing a monthly stormwater utility fee of \$4. Funding will support pivotal capital improvement projects that are essential to compliance. The user fee will be included as a component of water, sewer, and sanitation bills and will be reflected on your September 2012 bill. Commercial and Industrial entities would be billed as multiples of ERU based on impervious area.

What is Stormwater?

The term stormwater refers to rainwater. Stormwater washes down storm drains on the curbs of roads and leads directly into lakes, rivers, and streams. Unlike wastewater, it is untreated and can carry pollutants, sediments, and trash directly into our natural water resources.

Why should I care?

As stormwater runoff travels, it picks up all kinds of chemicals, waste, and trash that are not naturally found in our waterways. Stormwater runoff enters the storm drain system through inlets, and discharges untreated into creeks, lakes, and rivers. Some chemicals and other substances in stormwater can be toxic, even at small levels, endangering plant and animals that depend on the water to survive. Pollution of our waterways can also mean we cannot boat, swim, or fish because it is unpleasant or even unsafe.

Pollution Prevention

Stormwater pollution can be controlled if everyone plays a part in preventing these substances from entering the storm drain inlets in the streets where they live and work. You can help prevent stormwater pollution by eliminating illicit discharges; exercising responsible use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers in lawn and landscape maintenance; and proper disposal of used oil and toxic materials.

Types of Stormwater Pollution

Pollutants enter the water environment from two main sources: point and non-point sources - also referred to as direct or indirect flows.

Types of Stormwater Pollution:

- Illicit Discharge
- Herbicides, Pesticides, and Fertilizers
- Oils & Toxins

Understanding Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is defined in the federal regulations as any discharge to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) that is not composed entirely of storm water." Indirect Entry flows in the storm drains created by pollutants that enter the storm drain system through an inlet or through the joints of the pipe (infiltration). Businesses should have grease, sand or oil traps tested and pumped annually. This will keep the City's sanitary sewer system from having back-ups. This is an EPD Regulation.

Nationally, one fourth of the pollutants found in rivers and streams originate from residential use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These materials can enter into the storm drain system through illegal dumping, run-off from excessive lawn irrigation, and from heavy rains and from there they can be discharged directly into our waterways.

Help prevent pollution - recycle these items:

- Motor oil
- Oil filters
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Batteries
- Solvents
- Paints