

CITY OF SEDALIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff happens when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces such as paved streets, driveways, parking lots, building rooftops and sidewalks prevent the stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

As the runoff flows, it can transport trash, dirt, grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, oil, grease, and other contaminants. Unlike household wastewater, stormwater runoff receives no treatment. Stormwater drains through gutters, storm sewers and other engineered collection systems. Thus, nutrients will eventually flow into the storm drain system and be released into nearby lakes, rivers, creeks, streams or wetlands.

These excess nutrients encourage algae growth and retention of rotted plants in lakes and streams. Excess algae can lead to oxygen depletion, fish kills, strong odors, surface scum and reduction in recreational opportunities.

Polluted stormwater can also affect drinking water sources. This can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

Higher rainwater flow can result from heavy rains and can cause erosions along stream banks and flooding within neighborhoods, which can damage habitat, property and infrastructure.



Common Contaminants

Paint/Paint Thinners/Solvents
 Water From Cleaning Paint Brushes/Trays
 Cleaners/Disinfectants
 Used Carpet Cleaning Solutions
 Degreasers
 Pesticides
 Aerosol Sprays
 Car Wax/Cleaners
 Wood Stain
 Weed Killers
 Fertilizers
 Antifreeze
 Motor Oil/Transmission Fluid
 Rat/Mouse Poison
 Swimming Pool Chemicals

Storm drains and drainage inlets are for the collection and transporting of stormwater only. These drains and inlets are not intended as a place to dump waste.



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Help spread the word about the connection between our streets and streams. The City of Sedalia is looking for volunteers to help label our storm drains.

If you or someone you know is interested please contact Public Works at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166 to schedule a time to paint.

Assistance in Monitoring Neighborhood Catch Basins and Grates Is Appreciated

Typical maintenance of catch basins and grates includes leaf and trash removal if a screen or other debris-catching device is used, and sometimes removal of sediment. Street Division staff are trained in catch basin maintenance and maintain a log and listing of the basins requiring periodic clearing.

Report An Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you suspect something has been incorrectly placed into a storm drain, please call the Public Works Department at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166.

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Tips for Stormwater Friendly Lawn and Garden Care:

- Apply fertilizers only when necessary and at the recommended amount
 - Do not apply fertilizer on windy or rainy days
 - Avoid applying fertilizer close to waterways
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on a hard surface so any spills are easily cleaned up
 - Consider organic fertilizers because they release nutrients slowly
- Plant a rain garden of native plants, shrubs and trees that will provide a way for water to soak into the ground
 - Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater
- Use yard waste which is comprised of grass clippings and leaves in mulch or compost for the garden



**GRASS CLIPPINGS AND
EXCESS LEAVES DO NOT
BELONG IN OUR STREAMS AND RIVERS OR
STORMWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM**



Healthy Approach to Lawn Care Without the Phosphorus

Phosphorus in fertilizer can boost the health of plants when applied at proper rates and at the appropriate times. When used in excess or at the wrong time, it can be washed into lakes and streams where it can harm fish or other aquatic life.

Melting snow or a summer rainstorm can quickly wash phosphorus from your fertilizer and other pollutants off your lawn and into streams, lakes and rivers. Even if you live far from a lake or stream, rain and melting snow can transport phosphorus and other pollutants from your yard to a waterbody through stormwater runoff.

Phosphorus is like junk food for algae causing it to grow out of control, turning our waters green, lowering water quality and even killing fish. Too much phosphorus may cause algae bloom-making water appear green and may reduce opportunities for recreation and tourism.

Small Choices Can Make A Big Impact!

Paper, plastic bottles and other trash left on the street may wash down into storm drains, catch basins and eventually into our local lakes and streams. Help keep our waters clean by preventing litter.

Help Us Keep Sedalia Clean!

Did you know?

The City of Sedalia has a site available for residents to take their yard debris for disposal.

City of Sedalia Materials Management Site
27882 Highway U (S. Ingram Ave.)

Hours: 7:00 am to 5:30 pm 7 days per week excluding City Holidays, weather dependent.

For more details, please contact Public Works at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166 or (660) 827-7820.