

We All Live in a Watershed

ortland has an average of 37 inches of rain a year. That creates billions of gallons of stormwater runoff that washes over roofs, streets, parking lots and other hard surfaces. The stormwater flows into street drains that empty into rivers and streams. It carries dirt, chemicals, metals and other pollutants that can harm fish, wildlife, and people.

Stormwater isn't all bad. Clean stormwater helps plants grow, refreshes groundwater supplies, and keeps streams at levels and temperatures that support healthy populations of fish and wildlife. Environmental Services uses innovative management techniques to help keep stormwater clean. We work with other city departments, the community and public and private partners to find better ways to use rain as a resource while reducing stormwater pollution.

Your Watershed

Portland has five major watersheds. The rain that falls in your neighborhood flows into one of the tributaries, such as Johnson Creek, or directly to the Willamette. What happens on the land affects water quality in Portland's waterways.

Solutions that work require a watershed approach that looks not just at waterways, but also the land and land uses that send polluted runoff to rivers and streams. Restoring our waterways starts with a healthy watershed.

Construction Requirements

Always call the City of Portland at 503-823-6892 before you build on, alter, regrade or fill on your property, or if you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted. A permit is required to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties and meet city, state and federal requirements.

How You Can Help

- Preserve established trees in your yard and neighborhood.
- Plant trees, shrubs and ground covers that filter pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff.
- Reduce or stop fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Use non-toxic alternatives to home cleaning chemicals.
- Never dump used motor oil, paint or household chemicals on the ground or in a storm drain.
- Sweep driveways and patios clean instead of hosing debris into the street.
 - "Only rain down the drain"
- Drive less, use public transportation, bike or walk.
- Scoop pet poop and put in trash.



www.cleanriverspdx.org

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