



What pollutes stormwater runoff?

- As stormwater flows, it collects and transports pollutants such as animal waste, litter, road salt, pesticides, fertilizers, and pavement sealant residue.
- These pollutants are transported into storm sewers and ravines, which discharge polluted stormwater directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without treatment.
- Polluted stormwater degrades lakes, rivers, ravines, wetlands, and waterways.
- Fertilizers create algae blooms, which deplete dissolved oxygen in water and negatively impact a wide range of wildlife.
- Pesticides can kill fish and harm wildlife.
- Bacteria from animal waste makes waterways unsafe for recreation.
- The sanitary sewer system carries waste water from household plumbing to a wastewater treatment plant. The storm sewer system, on the other hand, carries runoff - untreated - to nearby ravines, creeks, wetlands, downstream recreational waterways, and even Lake Michigan, a drinking water source.

By reducing pollutants in runoff from our homes, yards, and streets, we can help protect Lake Michigan as well as local streams and wetlands.



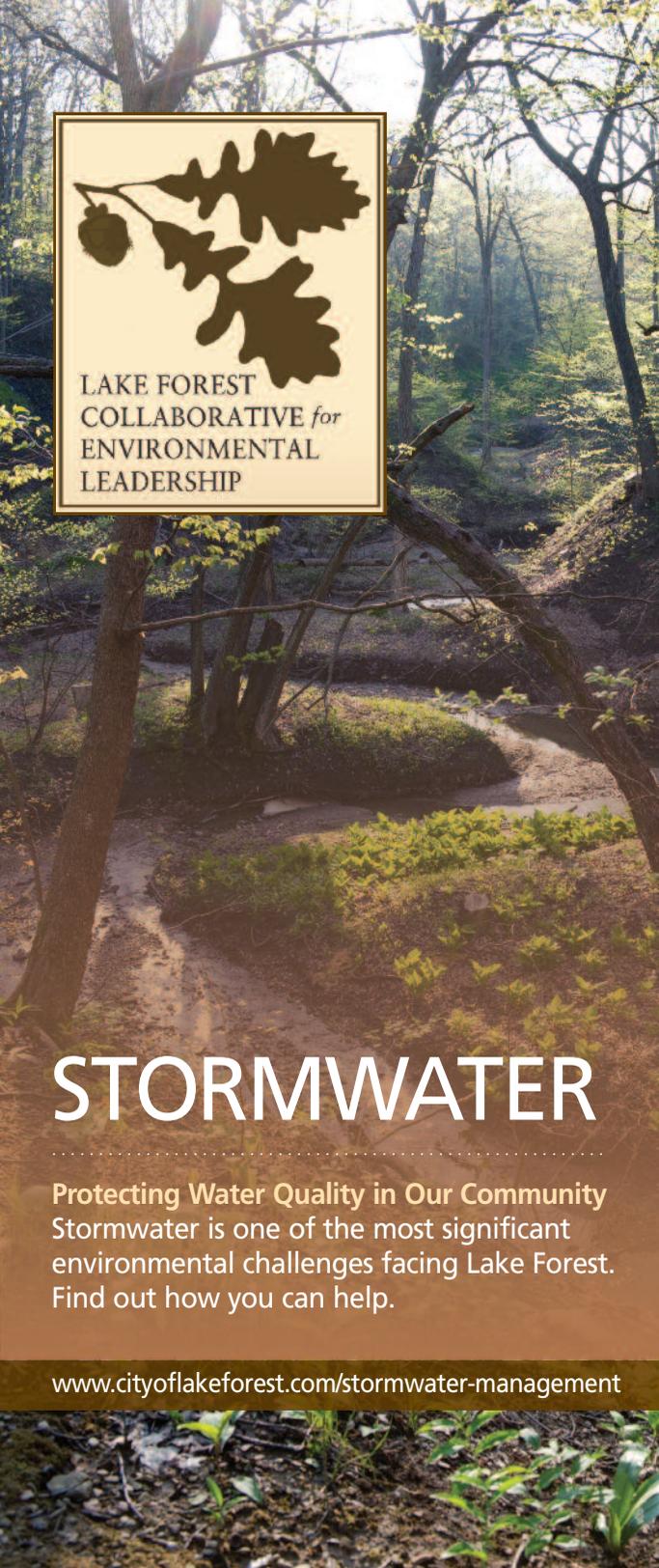
STORMWATER



STORMWATER

Protecting Water Quality in Our Community
Stormwater is one of the most significant environmental challenges facing Lake Forest. Find out how you can help.

www.cityoflakeforest.com/stormwater-management





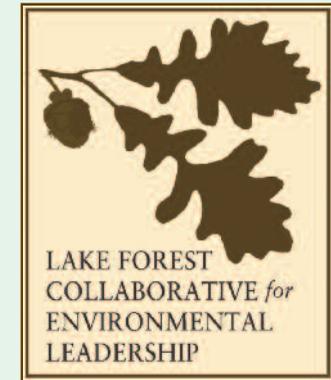
Where does stormwater flow in Lake Forest?

- “Stormwater runoff” is water that does not soak into the ground during a rainstorm or during snow melt. It runs off sloped lawns and bare soils and impervious surfaces such as roofs and pavement. It flows into storm drains connected to underground storm sewer lines.
- Storm sewers carry the runoff directly into streams, lakes, and catchment basins.
- In Lake Forest, stormwater that flows east of Green Bay Road drains through the ravines into Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water.
- Stormwater that flows west of Green Bay Road makes its way to the Chicago River, which ultimately leads into the Gulf of Mexico through the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.
- No matter where you live in Lake Forest, any runoff from your property - be it from rain, snow melt, sprinklers or washing a car on an asphalt driveway - ends up untreated in a watershed.

7 Solutions

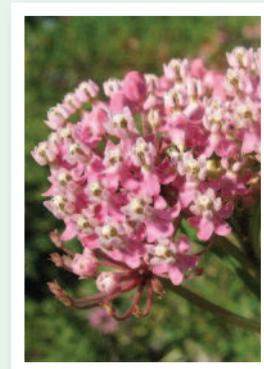
- Do not dump anything down storm drains other than uncontaminated water.
 - Chlorinated pool water is toxic to wildlife. Do not drain chlorinated pool water into a storm drain or ravine. Instead, have your pool water dechlorinated and discharged across your lawn.
- Use slow-release, phosphorus-free fertilizer and reduce pesticide use on your lawn and gardens. Focus on soil health and try organic control measures as the first line of defense against weeds and pests.
- Pick up dog feces and flush in a toilet or put in the trash in a biodegradable bag. Do not flush cat feces due to danger of toxoplasmosis. Dispose of litter safely.
- Minimize the amount of ice-melt used on your driveway and sidewalks.
- If you choose to seal your driveway, use asphalt-based sealants instead of coal-tar based sealants.
 - Coal-tar sealants contain PAHs, which are harmful to both humans and ecosystems affected by runoff from treated surfaces. PAHs are classified as a human carcinogen and toxic to aquatic life.
- Consider ways to minimize impervious surfaces around your home.
- Consider disconnecting downspouts from the storm sewer and installing rain barrels or directing water from downspouts to a rain garden. Enjoy a new suite of flowers, ferns, shrubs and trees that thrive in wet soil and help soak up excess water.

What can we do to help protect water quality in our community?



For more information:

- visit: www.cityoflakeforest.com/stormwater-management
- visit: www.cityoflakeforest.com/environmental-initiatives
- visit: www.lakecountyiil.gov/2261/Stormwater-Best-Practices
- visit: www.blue-thumb.org/raingardens



Swamp milkweed and gray sedge are good choices for wet ground.