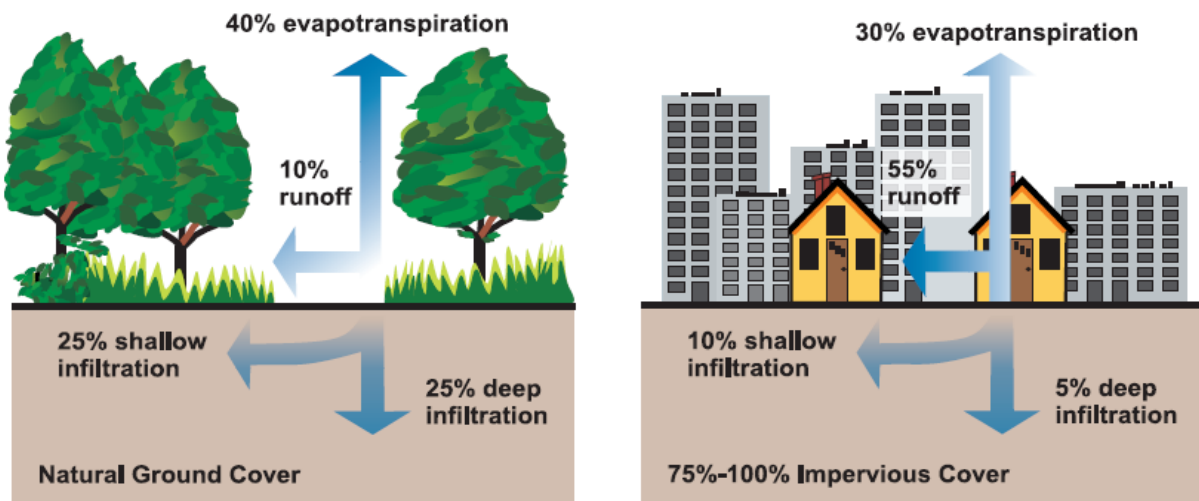


STORMWATER: Why It Matters!

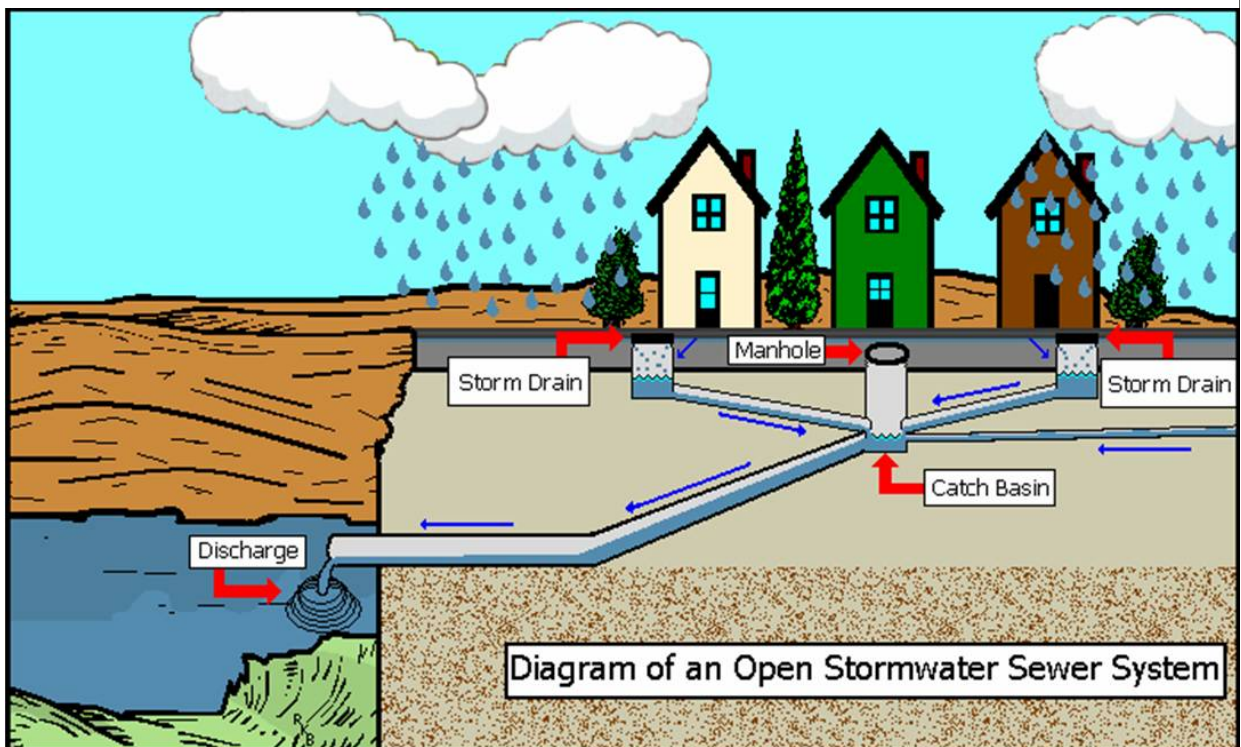


Stormwater

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain flows over the ground, rather than soaking into the ground. Stormwater runoff is commonly seen on impervious surfaces like parking lots, driveways, streets, sidewalks & buildings. These impervious surfaces have a significant impact on the amount of stormwater that does not infiltrate, or soak into, the ground.



In municipal areas, stormwater is collected in a storm sewer system consisting of storm drains, catch basins, and drain lines. These systems discharge to creeks, streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.



Stormwater



Stormwater picks up yard debris, litter, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants before flowing into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water.

All stormwater that enters a storm sewer system is discharged without treatment into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

Effects of Pollution in Stormwater:

- Sediment can cloud water, making it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow and can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Nutrients from fertilizers and soaps can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they decompose in a process that removes dissolved oxygen from the water, causing death of aquatic organisms.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- Debris - plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts - washed into waterways can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Both land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or from ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.



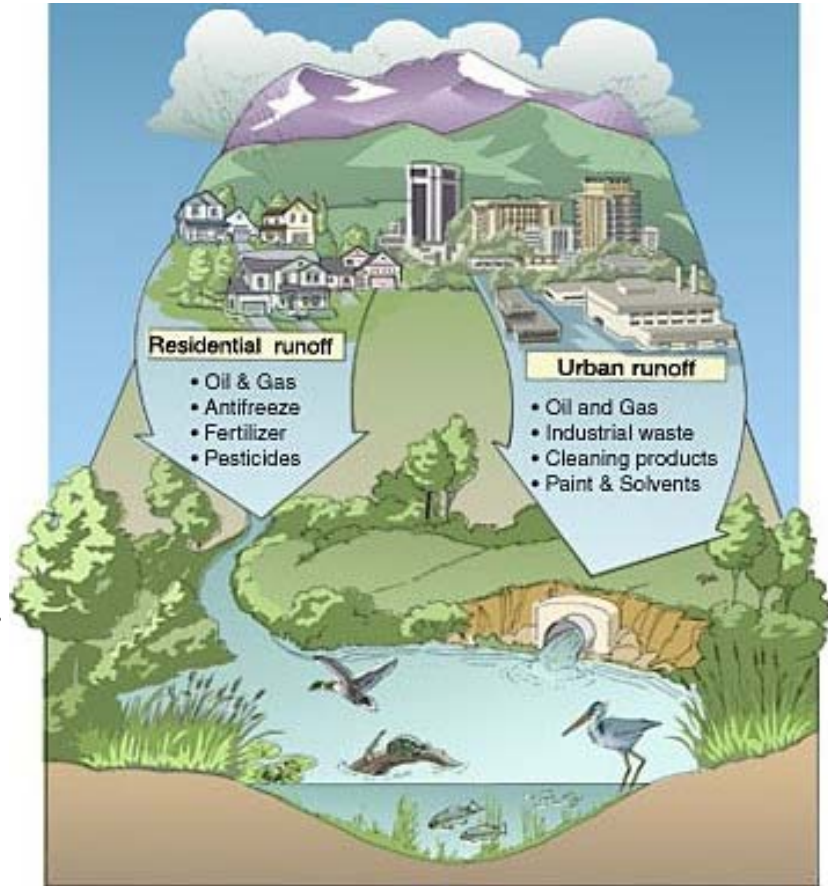
Stormwater

Sources of Stormwater Pollution Include:

- Lawn care
- Dirt, oil and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas
- Pet waste
- Auto care (including washing)

What You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution:

- Don't overwater your lawn
- Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car in your yard where the water infiltrates into the ground
- Repair leaks & dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations
- Don't litter - 18% of all litter ends up in waterways



Stormwater at Valdosta State University is collected in stormwater drains across the campus. From these drains, most water flows into One Mile Branch on Main Campus or Two Mile Branch on North Campus.