

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To Learn More
Visit us at: co.st-clair.il.us/stormwater
Or
Call us at 618-825-2531

WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are techniques, measures or structural controls used to manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. The goal of BMPs is to mimic the natural way water moved through an area before development by using design techniques to infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source. BMPs help reduce the amount of and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Please preserve our streams by utilizing these BMPs.

QUICK FIXES

Rain barrels are an easy and inexpensive way to capture and store runoff falling from gutters. The stored water can later be used to water gardens and lawns. You can make your own barrels or purchase them locally with simple installation. Another easy fix is adding a rain garden to your property. This attractive BMP is effective in reducing the amount of runoff leaving your property. Rain gardens utilize native plants with deep roots to absorb runoff, filter pollutants and promote groundwater recharge. Even simple changes in habit can be a BMP. For example, using phosphate-free products when washing your car or fertilizing your lawn go a long way in reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff. Something as small as cleaning up after your pet and ensuring litter is properly disposed of can also help.

CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS

Some BMPs require more involvement, but should be considered when building or renovating homes. For example, green roofs are an excellent way to decrease the amount of runoff leaving your property. Green roofs not only utilize water where it falls, but help prevent urban heat islands. Green roofs are a more expensive upgrade to your property, but they save money on heating and cooling costs. They can also be constructed on flat and sloped surfaces. A permeable paver is another BMP used as an alternative to traditional concrete or asphalt paving. The pavers decrease runoff by allowing water to seep into cracks that are filled with an aggregate. Remember, anything you can do to reduce pollutants in St. Clair County streams helps everyone!

REMEMBER...

- Use permeable pavers instead of asphalt or concrete.
- Plant rain gardens using native species.
- Mix composts into lawns and gardens to use for fertilizer.
- Install rain barrels and use it to water your plants and lawn.
- Don't use your hose as a broom.
- Build green vegetated roofs.
- Keep your vehicle regularly maintained and free of leakage.
- Use phosphate-free products outdoors.
- Put litter in its place.
- Use alternative deicing methods on your driveway in the winter.
- Clean up animal waste.
- Properly dispose of grass clippings and leaves.
- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Report illicit discharge into sewers and streams.



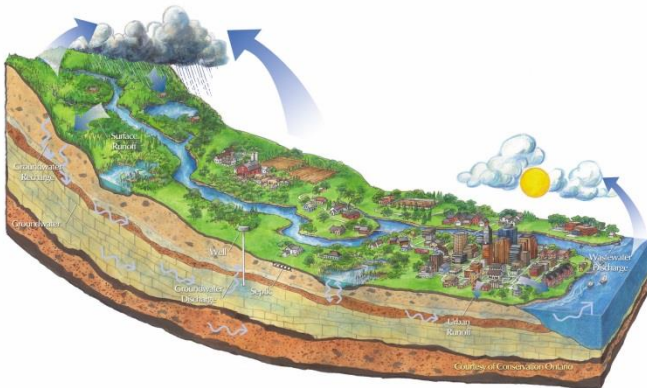
HELP YOUR WATERSHED!

Everyone lives in a watershed, and it takes a community to maintain and protect it!

St. Clair County is looking for input on water quality concerns or issues in your watershed. If you have any information, please provide it online at:

co.st-clair.il.us/stormwater/concerns

However, no matter where you live in a watershed, you contribute to the health of local streams and rivers. If you don't have information to contribute, you can still help improve the health of your watershed by following the guidance in this brochure!



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

St. Clair County Stormwater Management

For more information

St. Clair County
Building and Zoning Department
10 Public Square
Belleville, IL 62220

Stormwater Hotline
618-825-2690

Email: stormwater@co.st-clair.il.us

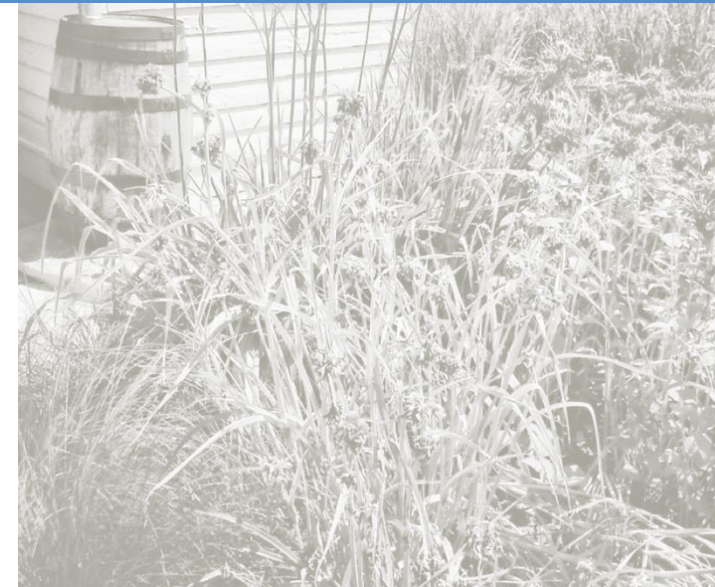


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