



Quinte  
CONSERVATION

# Stormwater Management



*A wet pond treating stormwater runoff in a Quinte subdivision*

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow that, when not absorbed into the ground, runs off properties onto streets and into storm drains and ditches. It's final destination is the nearest stream or lake.

In urban areas, the ground is covered with hard surfaces like asphalt and concrete. Stormwater can't seep through these materials, and the excess volume of water during a storm can lead to flooding and erosion issues. Another concern is that as stormwater flows over the land, it sweeps trash and contaminants away with it. Between rain events our streets, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops collect a nasty mixture of contaminants like:

- Oils
- Sand & grit
- Heavy metals
- Trash
- Salt
- Pesticides
- Pet feces
- Excess nutrients

Whatever goes into a storm drain typically ends up in the nearest body of water, in many cases without being treated first. Over time, stormwater has very harmful impacts on aquatic ecosystems. We should also consider the value of the other benefits we get from fresh water sources like:

- Drinking water
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Boating



Quinte  
CONSERVATION  
a member of  
Conservation Ontario

**For more information**  
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## What Is Being Done?

We each have a role to play in managing stormwater.

Municipalities own and operate facilities that treat stormwater before it is released into the environment. Storm ponds and constructed wetlands are examples that you may have seen in a local neighbourhood without realizing its purpose, but there are many tools available, including annual street sweeping programs.

From underground oil and grit separators to annual street sweeping and downspout disconnection programs, there are many tools available. You should be able to find out more by visiting your municipality's website.



*Annual street sweeping to keep grit out of stormwater*

Quinte Conservation staff also support stormwater management throughout our watershed. Staff help peer-review stormwater designs for development applications, and have developed a set of submission guidelines for technical consultants. Quinte Conservation supports the efforts of the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan to protect the bay by addressing local stormwater needs. In the past, this has included work like demonstrating innovative technologies, conducting sampling, helping to create a bay-wide Pollution Prevention and Control Plan, and collaborating with municipalities to plan stormwater retrofits in older areas without existing treatment.

## What Can You Do?



*Storm drain clogged by leaves during rainfall*

There is a lot you can do to help manage stormwater. Knowing that whatever goes in the storm drain can directly flow to the closest stream or lake, you should:

- Pick up after your pets
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways clean instead of using a running hose
- Wash your car at a car wash, or in a location that doesn't drain to the street
- Disconnect your downspout from the sewer system
- Avoid the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers and chemical pesticides
- Increase your amount of soft-surface landscaping to allow more infiltration
- Avoid dumping anything into the storm drain
- Educate yourself and the people you know

For more information about stormwater, what we do to manage it and why, visit:

[www.QuinteConservation.ca](http://www.QuinteConservation.ca)