



50
YEARS
1964 - 2014



URBAN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

DECORAH, IA

1. LITTER AND PET WASTE

Pick up and dispose of pet waste in the garbage, and keep yard waste like clippings and leaves out of storm drains and gutters. Left on lawns and streets, plant debris and bacteria from pet waste will wash into storm drains and local water bodies after the next rainfall.



2. LAWN FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS

Reduce or eliminate use of fertilizer and chemical applications on your lawn. Instead, use organic and non-chemical fertilizers, or simply utilize native vegetation and infiltration techniques to retain important nutrients naturally and prevent erosion.



3. VEHICLE WASHING

Avoid washing your car at home. At a commercial car wash, runoff is disposed of properly and water is used more efficiently. When you wash your car at home, chemical runoff from soap washes directly into street drains and builds excess nutrients in urban streams. Wash your car on grass or gravel and use soap sparingly if you decide to wash at home.



4. DOWNSPOUT MANAGEMENT

- Divert downspouts and gutters away from impervious surfaces and onto vegetated areas of your lawn. This will increase rainwater infiltration, minimize ponding and flooding, and reduce runoff of fertilizers and debris into streams. Downspouts can also be directed into a rain barrel, which captures rainwater that can be used to water your lawn. If water pools on your lawn, consider installing rain gardens or bioswales by the downspout or rain barrel to enhance infiltration and minimize flooding.



5. WATER USE

Many of our daily home activities consume large volumes of water, but there are simple ways to cut back on our water usage. Don't let water run continuously when hand-washing dishes or brushing your teeth. Take shorter showers and consider using a water-conserving shower head. Only run the laundry machine and dishwasher with *full* loads.

