

Storm Water: Treat it Right

How is storm water managed in rural spaces?

A rural space is somewhere such as a park, countryside, or other natural landscapes. The water cycle ensures that there is a constant cycling of water within the atmosphere. When it rains or when snow melts, water is stored in the ground as ground water and absorbed by plants over time. Overflow of water is held in lakes, streams, rivers, and wetland areas.

How is storm water managed in urban environments?

An urban environment is an area that is developed, such as a city. Many different systems are put in place to collect and direct storm water in the right direction, such as: sloped roadways and roofs, gutters and catch basins, sewer pipes, and outfall pipes to a major body of water. Stormwater in urban areas needs to be managed because it falls onto land in which water cannot easily soak into, such as concrete, pavement, metal, and infrastructure. Areas like basements and highway underpasses need to be protected from heavy rainfall. Changes in seasons, such as heavy rainfall in the spring and early summer, change the amount of storm water that needs to be managed. As cities continue to expand, the areas that water cannot be absorbed also expands.

Why care?

If storm water isn't managed properly, especially in urban areas, there could be many negative effects. For example, flooding in basements of homes or businesses. Unsafe roadways due to wash out or flooding or unpleasant conditions. It could also cause damage to landscape and erosion in some areas.

Source: Storm water: Treat it Right, <https://resources4rethinking.ca/media/Treat%20it%20Right%20Storm%20Water%20WaterGuideGrade8.pdf>