

SPRINGFIELD IS FOUNDED ON WATER

Springfield has such a close relationship with water that it's even in our name: spring.

We're located between two rivers – the McKenzie and the Willamette. Also, as a Pacific Northwest city, we receive an average of 47 inches of rain every year.

Our health and the health of the land we live on is tied to the health of these waters. Our rivers support drinking water, sports and recreation, salmon, plants and wildlife, and many natural resources.

When it rains, water washes over our City and flows, untreated, into storm drains and out to rivers. Because runoff collects pollutants from around our homes and washes them into these drains, our biggest source of water pollution is urban runoff.

The quality of our runoff depends on our everyday choices.

Read on to celebrate ways you're already preventing river pollution and to discover new ways!



ABOUT US

We work with you to keep it clean from street to stream!

Your City of Springfield Stormwater Team works year-round to ensure our waterways are clean and healthy and the system functions at its best.

We collaborate on stormwater planning to prevent flooding on our city streets, maintain open waterways and underground pipes, and educate community members about how our system works and ways to prevent pollution. We receive and respond to reports of stormwater pollution as well as work with businesses to develop good housekeeping practices for cleaner runoff. We also restore native plant species around waterways, which offer many benefits.

We work efficiently and enthusiastically to protect our precious water resources through stormwater programs funded by the City of Springfield. For payment convenience, City storm water fees are included with your monthly SUB bill.

Because we cannot be everywhere in the City all the time, we encourage you to let us know if you see anything other than rain entering a storm drain – including food, yard chemicals, yard dirt or debris, car wash soaps, auto grease, firework litter, cigarettes, etc.

Contact us any time!



Stormwater Team

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CLEAN WATER STARTS AT HOME

Our everyday choices at home affect Springfield's waterways. Here's how we keep them healthy!



OUR WATERWAYS FLOW FROM OUR HOMES

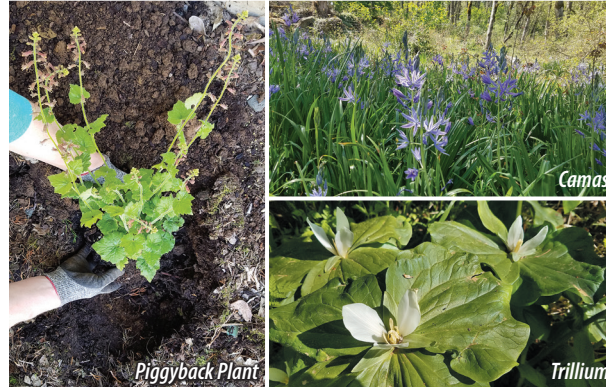
We've found these tried-and-true ways to keep our rivers in great shape, starting at our front doors!

1 Healthy Waterways Begin at Driveways

Our stormwater system prevents flooding in your neighborhood by draining rain into local waterways. To prevent storm-drain clogs and pollution:



- **Sweep your driveway and place the debris in the trash.** Don't wash or blow debris into the road where it can eventually flow into the storm drain.
- **Fix leaking vehicles as soon as possible.** Place a drip pan under leaks in the meantime. Soak up fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter, sweep it up, and place it in the trash.
- **Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on a grassy area** to prevent soap and oil from entering the storm system.



3 Garden with Native Plants

Plants native to the Willamette Valley provide excellent habitat for wildlife. Many have beautiful flowers and provide colorful leaves in the fall and attractive stems in the winter.

They are also low maintenance. They don't need extra water or chemicals to thrive, which means less work for you, a lower water bill, and fewer pollutants washing into our waterways.

There are many easy-to-use online databases of native plants to help you find what will look best and grow best in your yard. One from OSU to try is oregonflora.org and click on Grow Natives.

4 Welcome the Rain

Allowing stormwater runoff from your roof, patio, or driveway to soak into the ground naturally is one of the best ways to prevent stormwater pollution and recreate natural hydrology.

For more information, visit springfieldstreams.org and click on Clean Water Gardens.



5 Prevent Moss

Moss is commonly killed with products that contain zinc, copper, and other harmful chemicals that eventually wash into our local rivers by rain.



- **Help reduce moss on your roof** by trimming branches that create shade where moss can thrive. Bonus: Trimming tree limbs to be 10-feet away from your home helps protect it from wildfire.
- **Regularly remove organic debris** since it holds in moisture and encourages moss growth, such as pine needles, leaves, and branches at gutters, rooftops, walkways, and decks.
- **If you apply chemical products**, do so in dry weather, use the least toxic treatment, and don't over-apply.

2 Practice Natural Weed and Pest Control

When it rains, chemical weed and pest killers used in landscaping are washed into our local waterways, wreaking havoc on plants, insects, salmon, and wildlife. To prevent this:



- **Pull weeds by hand on a regular basis**, so that you can reduce or eliminate chemical weed killers.
- **Use beneficial bugs** like ladybugs in your garden to help keep pests such as aphids under control.
- **Reconsider what a "good" lawn looks like** and allow for plants other than grass.

AT-A-GLANCE SUMMARY Waterway Protection at the Storm Drain

Pollution CAUSE	Pollution SOLUTION
Bacteria	Pick up and throw away pet waste Don't feed ducks or other wildlife
Litter	Pick up litter, discard in trash Clean up fallen leaves and other debris
Vehicle Fluids	Fix vehicle leaks Catch fluids in a drip-pan in the meantime
Chemicals	Use natural yard and garden techniques Grow native plants that need less care
Car Washes	Use a commercial car wash Park on the lawn before washing Block the storm drain and redirect suds to landscaping
Increased Temperature	Plant urban trees and foliage for shade Maintain existing plants and trees