



It's all One Water

The fresh water we have today is the same water the dinosaurs drank. Since water is constantly used and reused, we say it's all One Water. In the Eugene-Springfield area, we're fortunate to have water from the McKenzie and Willamette rivers and plenty of rain. Still, water is a limited resource that's easily polluted.

Water is constantly flowing, used, and reused. One Water reminds us that our choices here affect our water quality everywhere.

Water in Springfield and Eugene

Many of us remember that the natural water cycle includes the processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. That's only part of the story. Every day, local water systems are collecting and releasing millions of gallons of water. The One Water perspective shows us how public water systems integrate with nature to meet our needs, and how individual actions protect our health and our water.

Everyone creates waste every day. Waste can spread disease if it enters water supplies. Urban water systems keep us healthy by providing clean water and removing waste.

Rain gardens for cleaner water

Did you know that rain running off roofs and paved areas typically flows directly into our waterways, carrying pollution along the way? Our traditional stormwater system sends runoff straight into the Willamette or McKenzie rivers and is the main source of river pollution.

That's why homeowners, developers, and the City are building more rain gardens – ponds designed to hold runoff, and lined with native, water-loving plants. Plants help rain soak into soil and filter pollutants. Rain gardens help keep rivers clean and also enhance properties, recharge groundwater, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Contact the Stormwater Team

Springfield's Stormwater Team helps you keep local rivers and streams clean. Contact us to report stormwater pollution or for personalized rain garden suggestions.



STORMWATER TEAM
City of Springfield, Oregon
 SpringfieldStreams.org • 541-726-3694
 WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

One Water

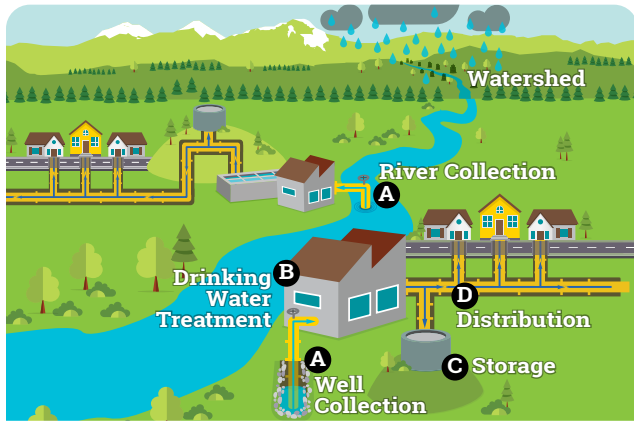
Springfield, Eugene, and Lane County share water needs and water supplies.

Here's how separate public water agencies serve you, and how you protect your resources.



Water Flows

so our water systems do too.
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS ARE SEPARATE YET RELATED.



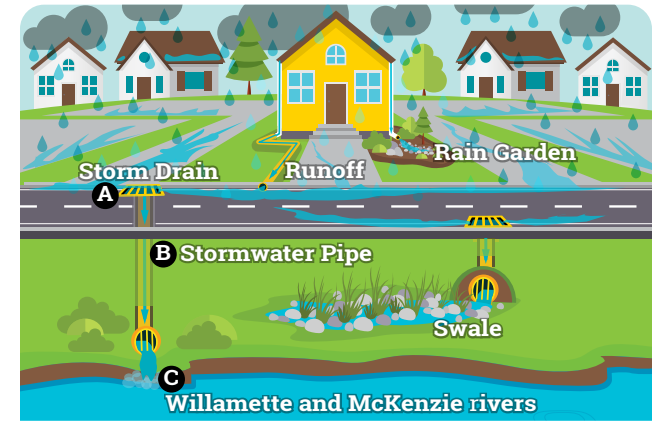
Drinking Water System

GOAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need clean water to drink and use every day.
PROVIDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Springfield Utility Board (SUB) Rainbow Water District (Rainbow) Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)
MANAGERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users manage their own private pipes. Each drinking water utility is customer-owned and has its own general manager and board of directors.
COLLECTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each drinking water utility collects water from natural sources, using different locations. In Springfield, SUB and Rainbow source water is primarily groundwater from wells across the city.
SERVICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilities purify natural water to drinking water standards and store in reservoirs until needed.
RELEASE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilities distribute water on demand to homes, businesses, and for fighting fires.
BILLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users pay for drinking water in their utility bill.



Wastewater System

GOAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We pollute water with waste when we use it. Waste needs to be removed before water is returned to nature.
PROVIDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) City of Springfield City of Eugene
MANAGERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users manage their own private pipes and prevent clogs. Each City manages and maintains their own wastewater collection system. The MWMC manages the wastewater treatment plant.
COLLECTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastewater systems collect used water from indoor drains, through privately owned pipes, through City-owned wastewater collection systems, to the MWMC's wastewater treatment plant.
SERVICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wastewater treatment plant removes solids and disinfects water. They use advanced, sustainable techniques to reclaim nutrients and energy.
RELEASE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The treatment plant releases cleaned water to the Willamette River.
BILLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users pay for wastewater services in their utility bill.



Stormwater System

GOAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roofs and paved areas give rain nowhere to go, so runoff needs to be redirected to prevent flooding.
PROVIDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Springfield City of Eugene
MANAGERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members prevent outdoor pollution city wide. Each City manages and maintains their own stormwater system.
COLLECTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stormwater system collects runoff from hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, and roads. Rain gardens collect and clean runoff, allowing it to soak into soil and replenish groundwater supplies.
SERVICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runoff drains off of roofs and streets through networks of open channels, storm drains, underground pipes, swales, and more.
RELEASE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater infrastructure releases runoff to streams and/or the Willamette or McKenzie rivers.
BILLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users pay for stormwater services in their utility bill.

HIGHLY REGULATED

Water pollution can be extremely dangerous so it's regulated and enforced by the U.S. by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In Oregon, the EPA's rules are enforced by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ's water quality standards dictate Springfield's City Code regulations to prevent water pollution.