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OPP Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management Information for

Faculty and Staff

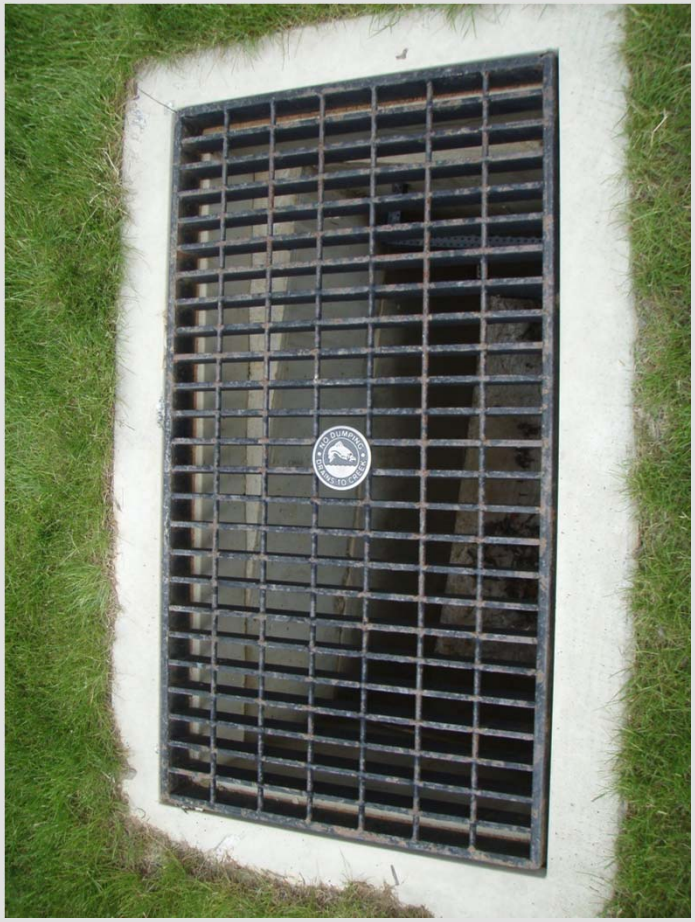
Report a Problem

If you observe a problem that is an emergency that may result in the loss of life or property, please call 911.

If you observe flooding, suspected illicit discharges, or would like to report another type of stormwater related problem that needs immediate attention, please contact the Office of Physical Plant Service Desk at (814) 865-4731. The Service desk is staffed 24 hours every day.

In some areas of the country, stormwater and wastewater are combined. However, in most areas, including at the University Park Campus, these are two completely different systems.

Wastewater



Stormwater

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At University Park campus, the stormwater, wastewater and potable water systems are considered holistically; however, how they move through the water cycle is very different

Stormwater runoff consists of water that falls as precipitation and runs off as a non-point source or through a storm drain conveyance system, which consists of pipes, inlets, manholes, and outfalls. In most cases this runoff is not treated or has limited treatment.

Courtesy Healthy Waterways.org

Wastewater is polluted water that has been used in homes, schools, dorms, businesses, and industries that is not suitable for reuse prior to adequate treatment such as at the University's wastewater treatment plant.

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Wastewater drains including toilets, sinks, showers, and floor drains, are conveyed to the wastewater treatment plant where the discharges are treated before being spray irrigated at the living filter

For More information on the University's Wastewater Treatment see: http://www.opp.psu.edu/about-opp/divisions/ee/util/wastewater-services

Wastewater treatment plants cannot remove many chemicals, so please do not dispose of expired medicines, prescription drugs, or other hazardous chemicals down any drain

Common Hazardous Chemicals:

- Furniture and metal polishes
- Paint, varnish and paint thinner
- Deck cleaners and rust remover
- Garden chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides/weed killers
- Motor oil, antifreeze and most all vehicle-related fluids

Medications/Prescription drugs:

- Birth control pills
- Estrogen replacement therapy, etc.
- Antidepressants
- Antibiotics
- Veterinary/pet medicines
- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen
- Prescription narcotic painkillers
- Cold and flu remedies
- Germ-killing liquids

For a list of what can be placed down University drains refer to: http://guru.psu.edu/policies/SY40.html

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In the core University Park Campus areas, stormwater frequently ends up discharged directly in our streams, where pollutants can affect aquatic life and stream quality

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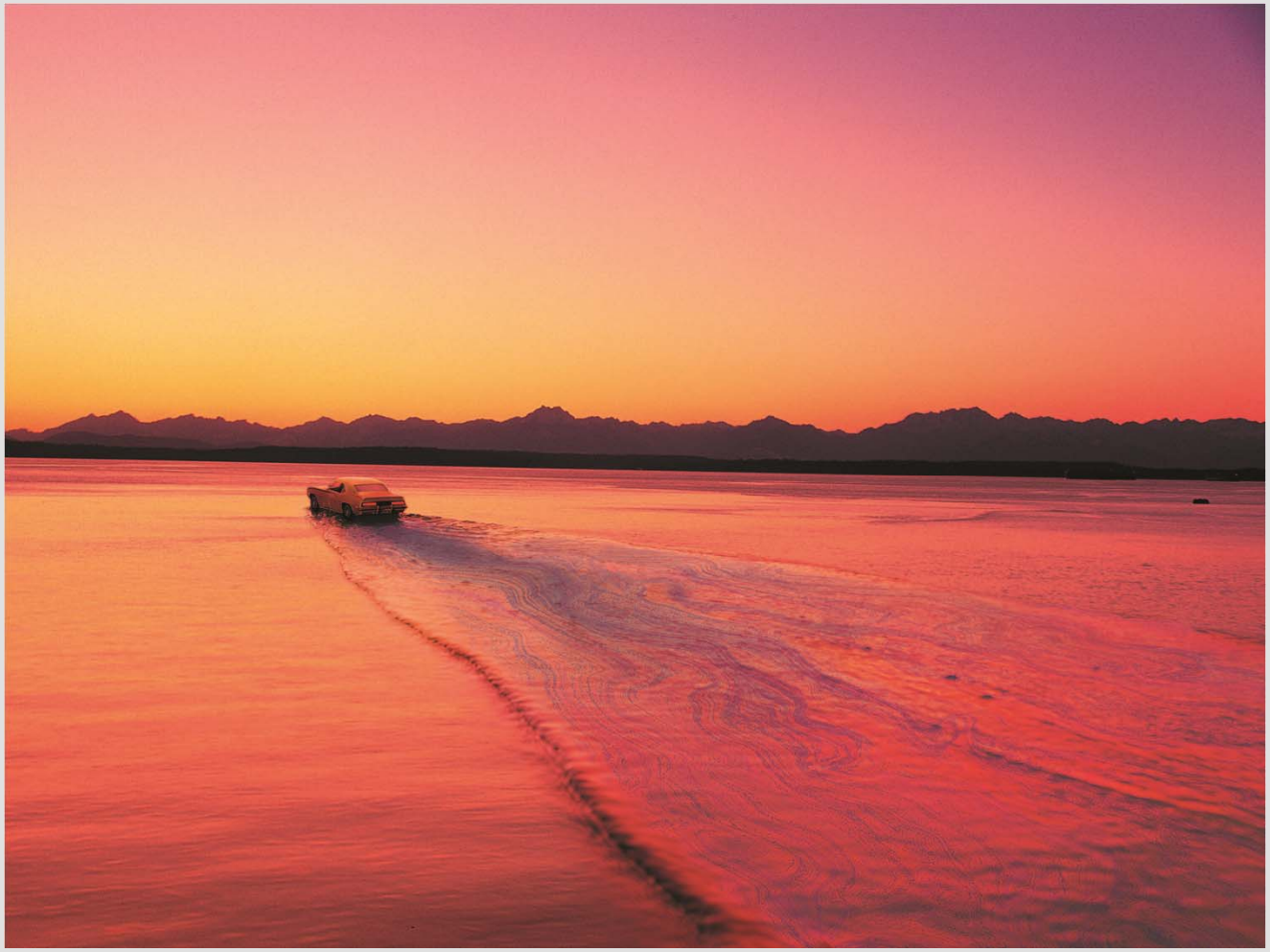
In other areas, stormwater goes to infiltration areas that are not designed to treat some types of pollutants; therefore, these pollutants can reach the groundwater that supplies our drinking water

When you wash your car on pavement, soap scum and grime can quickly reach the stream. These pollutants can harm aquatic life. The University is prohibited from washing its vehicles without a treatment facility.

Courtesy PaDEP

Leaking oils and other fluids are washed into the storm drains. One single quart of oil can cause an oil slick 2 acres in size. University vehicles must be properly maintained using best industry practices.



Courtesy PaDEP

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Nothing is permitted to be poured down a storm drain inlet.

Courtesy Shruthi Baskaran

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Oil, antifreeze or other pollutants that are poured down inlets, must be cleaned out by the University assuming its hazardous.

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The University is required to have a program that finds and corrects illicit discharges called the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program

For additional information, see the EPAs IDDE fact Sheet: give link

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The University has tested almost every drain in its building. Some sanitary type drains have been found to discharge into the storm and have been corrected, plugged, or had signs posted.

Faculty and staff sometimes run hoses or pipes to storm inlets. In general, unless the water is “potable” and someone is willing to drink the discharge, this is not permitted

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Dumping mop buckets, rinsing out paint cans or brushes into an inlet is also prohibited and may result in an environmental cleanup

Courtesy Old Dominion University

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If you see or hear water running into an inlet during dry periods, report it to OPP, this could be a known permitted discharge, but it also could be an unknown illicit cross connection

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Specialized tasks such as skating rink ice melting must be done in strict accordance with EHS and Engineering Services procedures

Greenbberg Ice Melting over pervious areas using geotextile

Pet waste contains bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth, and makes a mess of the bottom's of shoes. Please pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly in the trash or a toilet.

Courtesy PaDEP

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Report broken grates or other potential safety hazards immediately

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If you see a new hole in the ground or depression, report it to OPP

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There could be a very large sinkhole underneath.

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If you see water flowing up out of a manhole, please notify OPP, this can dislodge the manhole creating a hazardous situation and allows OPP to document storm drain capacity and deficiencies

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Report “unusual” environmental conditions immediately

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If you see an old inlet bag or filter, and there hasn't been any construction for a while, it probably was forgotten by a contractor and needs to be removed to prevent flooding. Please notify the OPP Service Desk at 865-4731

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Litter or trash, no matter how small, frequently ends up in the storm drain system and can be discharged to the stream. No one likes to wade or fish in this type of water. Please use the trash cans.

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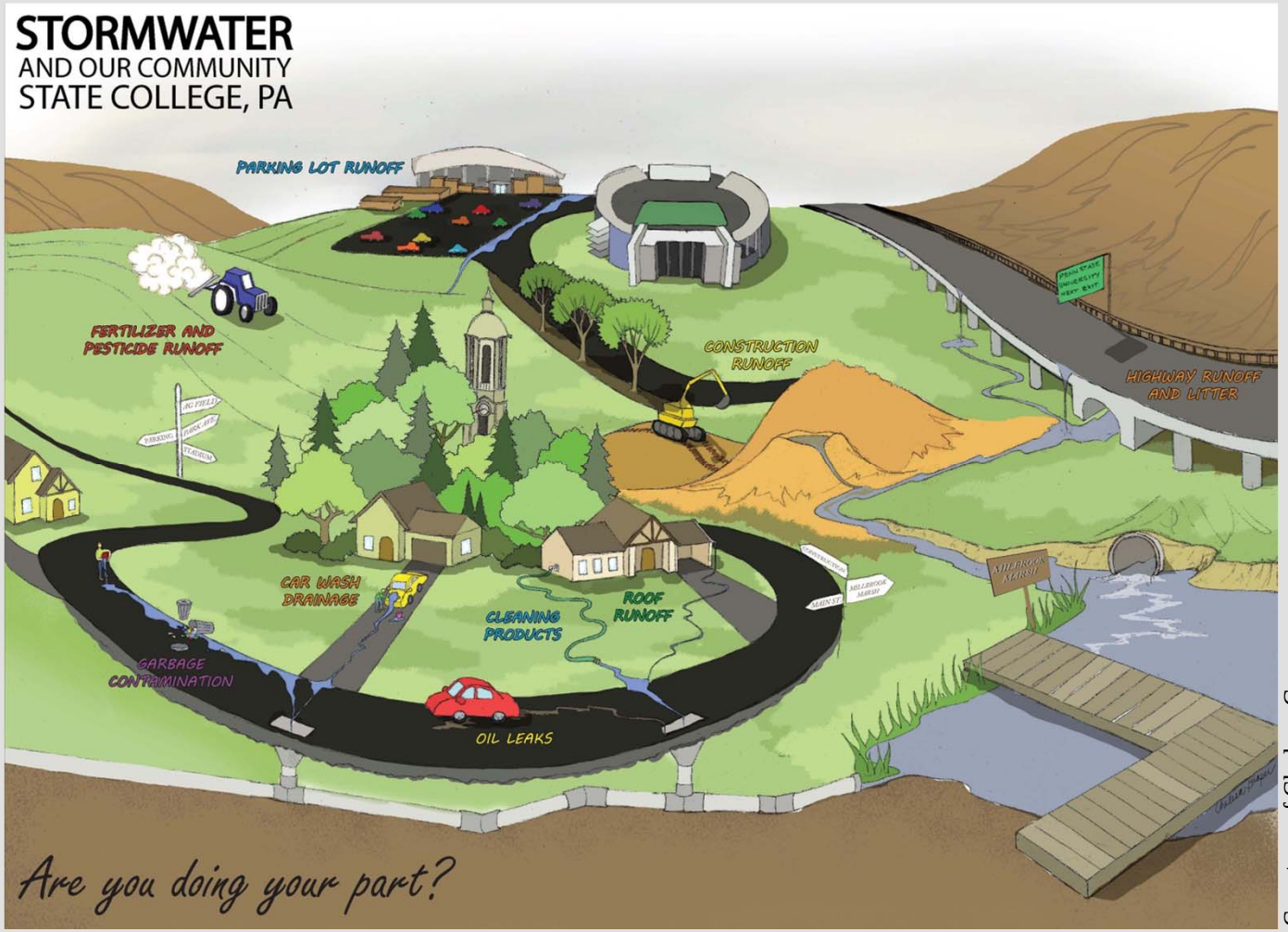
We all need to do our part



Courtesy of Chelsea Graper

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Thanks for taking the time to view this presentation

If you would like additional information or have questions, comments, or suggestions, contact Larry Fennessey, the University's stormwater operations engineer, at (814) 863-8743, or email: laf8@psu.edu