OUR THREE WATER SYSTEMS

1 Drinking Water

Most of Springfield's drinking water comes from groundwater. Springfield Utility Board (SUB) and Rainbow Water District operate and maintain many water wells throughout the city. SUB supplements its groundwater supply with water drawn from the Middle Fork Willamette River.

In addition, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) draws its drinking water supply from the McKenzie River.

2 Stormwater

All rain runoff from hard surfaces in Springfield (rooftops, streets, etc.) flows into the Willamette or McKenzie Rivers or soaks into the ground and recharges our groundwater.

The cleanliness of our stormwater ultimately impacts:

- The health of our local waterways and rivers where we love to play.
- Drinking water sources for Springfield and Eugene.
- All communities downstream that draw drinking water from the Willamette River.

3 Wastewater

Unless you are on septic, when you flush the toilet or run the tap in the Eugene-Springfield area, all that water flows to the wastewater treatment plant on River Avenue in Eugene and, after being cleaned, is released into the Willamette River.

Our plant is an award winning, state-of-the-art facility directed by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC).

Cleaning wastewater is vital for protecting aquatic life and for cities downstream from the river.

We care! City of Springfield staff work hard every day on the planning, maintenance, prevention, and education it takes to help residents and businesses keep our waterways healthy and clean.

If you see pollutants or soaps enter our stormwater system, please call the City of Springfield's Stormwater Team: **541.726.3694**

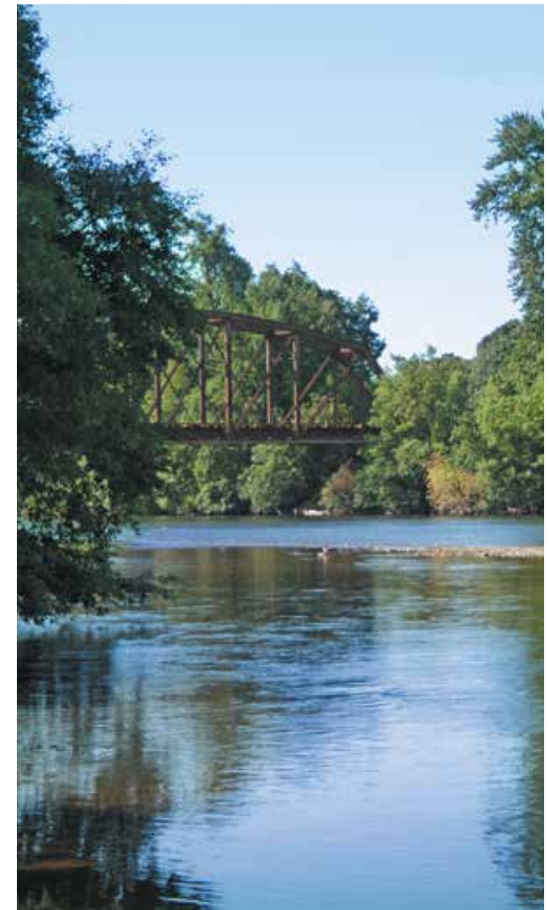
Learn about local invasive plants, naturescaping, rainwater gardens and more at **springfieldstreams.org** under the sidebar for "Informational Materials."

SPRINGFIELD OREGON

For more info, contact the Stormwater Team
SpringfieldStreams.org, 541.726.3694
WaterResources@springfield-or.gov

OUR WATER: IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Springfield community members and the City work together to keep our water clean.



SPRINGFIELD OREGON

From the Stormwater Team
Development & Public Works Dept.
City of Springfield, Oregon

STORMWATER SURROUNDS US

Oregonians value our rivers, lakes, and streams for their natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and world-class fishing. The interconnectedness of our water systems (drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater) and the actions of Springfield residents all combine to impact the waterways where we and our children play, the wildlife and landscapes we enjoy, and even the health of our City.

Stormwater comes from rain

We get lots of rain here in Springfield and all that runoff flows over hard surfaces (such as rooftops, driveways, and streets) and into our local waterways. Runoff from urban areas is referred to as "stormwater."

As runoff flows over our city, it picks up pollutants (like bacteria from pet waste, oil from leaking vehicles, sediment, and garden chemicals), and carries them to our rivers and streams. Stormwater is NOT cleaned at a central plant like wastewater is, and much of the runoff in Springfield flows untreated to local waterways.

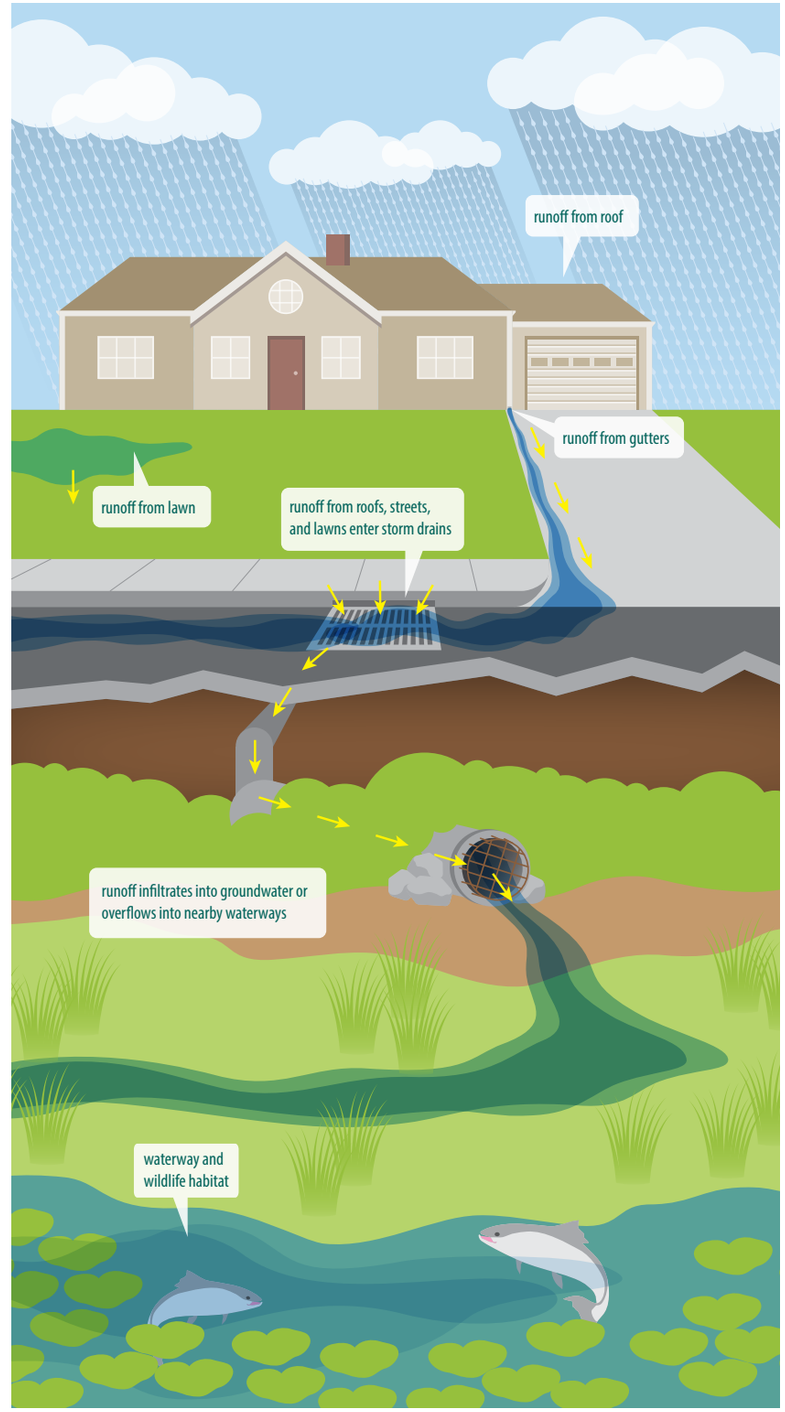
Clean stormwater means cleaner waterways and drinking water

One of the biggest threats to the health of our rivers is runoff from urban areas, so it's important we all do our part to keep stormwater clean. As such, stormwater is regulated by local, state, and federal laws. Remember, stormwater runoff in Springfield ultimately ends up in the McKenzie or Willamette River, or soaks into the ground: ***our drinking water sources***.

A freshly planted swale on Franklin Blvd. in Glenwood.

Stormwater facilities help

Springfield has many swales, rain gardens, and other types of facilities that collect stormwater and provide a buffer between urban runoff and the open waterway. Most of these facilities use native vegetation and soil organisms to help remove pollutants. An added benefit – they create wildlife habitat and natural areas within the urban environment! If you see a depression in the ground with water flowing in from a pipe, it's likely a stormwater facility.



TOGETHER WE KEEP STORMWATER CLEAN

Our role

The City of Springfield uses stormwater dollars collected from utility bill user fees to help clean water, including:

1. **Sweep over 6,000 miles of paved streets** to keep dirt, debris, and fall leaves out of storm drains.
2. **Clean and maintain over 5,000 stormwater catch basins**, located along public streets.
3. **Clean and maintain more than 200 miles** of stormwater pipes and waterways.
4. **Clean and maintain public stormwater treatment systems** like swales, planters, and ponds.
5. **Prevent spills and illicit releases** into the stormwater system and waterways.
6. **Provide pollution prevention education and outreach** through events and programs. Visit **springfieldstreams.org** for details.

Your role

As community members, you can use these easy tips to help keep our waterways clean and healthy:

1. **Always pick up after your pet.** This prevents rain from washing harmful bacteria and pollutants into our waterways.
2. **Fix leaking vehicles.** To trap toxic fluids, put a drip pan under leaks until your car can be repaired.
3. **Use natural gardening techniques** like beneficial bugs, hand-removal of weeds, and compost. Avoid chemical weed, moss, and insect killers.
4. **Wash your car at a commercial car wash** instead of at home. Car washes are plumbed to our wastewater treatment plant. At home the soap, dirt, and grease wash into our rivers and groundwater.