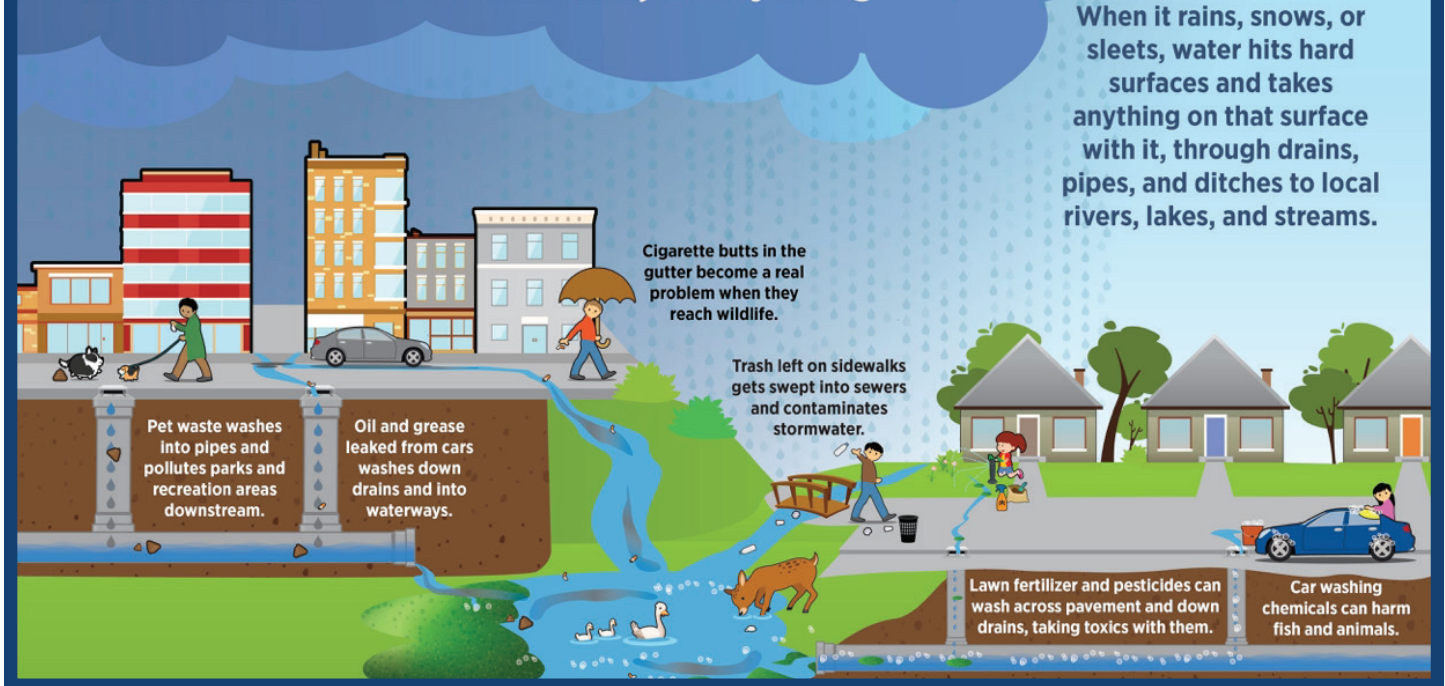




STORMWATER

Stormwater is the water that flows over the ground after it rains, snows, or sleets.

Stormwater: Where It Flows, Everything Goes



STORMWATER POLLUTION

During heavy rain events, the raindrops flow together (creating stormwater runoff) and pick up pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, pet waste, gravel and sediment, litter and other pollutants as it flows across the grass or pavement. If the flow is slowed, the water is absorbed into the soil and can filter and replenish groundwater. In a heavy rain event, the excess water flows into a storm drain and a network of pipes that discharge the water to a ditch, stream, river, or lake.

The City of Tuscaloosa, as well as developers, industries, and other stakeholders use stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to protect local and natural resources. These BMPs filter out pollutants and/or prevent pollution by controlling it at its source. It is important to remember all storm drains lead to local bodies of water. Stormwater is not treated at wastewater treatment plants.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Report spills or erosion problems immediately via Tuscaloosa 311.
- Don't litter.
- Lawn care – bag leaves and lawn clippings for pickup.
- Pick up after your pet and dispose properly.
- Wash your car on the lawn instead of the driveway.
- Fix car oil leaks promptly and recycle used oil and antifreeze.
- Sweep your driveway instead of pressure washing.
- Maintain septic tanks properly.
- Establish grass in bare areas to prevent erosion.

For more information, visit [Tuscaloosa.com/Stormwater](https://www.tuscaloosa.com/Stormwater) or Call Tuscaloosa 311 at 205-248-5311.