

STORM WATER NEWS

2015



YOU CAN BE THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION!

CITY OF MINOT FACTS:

Storm water runoff is rain water or snowmelt that flows over the surface of the earth. In an undisturbed world, runoff would be managed by natural erosion controls like grass, vegetation, and trees. In the world we live in now, runoff flows over many impervious surfaces like roofs, sidewalks, driveways, and roads. These surfaces don't allow the water to infiltrate into the soil. This causes debris, chemicals, and other pollutants to be picked up by the storm water. In the City of Minot, anything that enters the storm drain is discharged directly to the Mouse River without treatment. If large amounts of pollutant make their way to the Mouse River, this can create a hazardous environment for fish and other species that use the water (including humans!). This plays a vital role in water quality worldwide. Everyone lives downstream!

The City works diligently to keep our storm sewer system in proper working order. Throughout the year, we conduct various activities to keep the system clear of sediment and debris. In 2014, the City of Minot:

Looking for a way to help? Think about installing a rain garden in your yard.

- Swept up almost 4,000 loads of sediment and debris from our roadways. This not only makes our roadways look nice but it keeps pollution and sediment out of the Mouse River.
- Cleaned out 329 catch basins & manholes.
- Cleaned approximately 25,000 feet of storm sewer.
- Collected over 4,000 tons of compost material from compost sites around town.

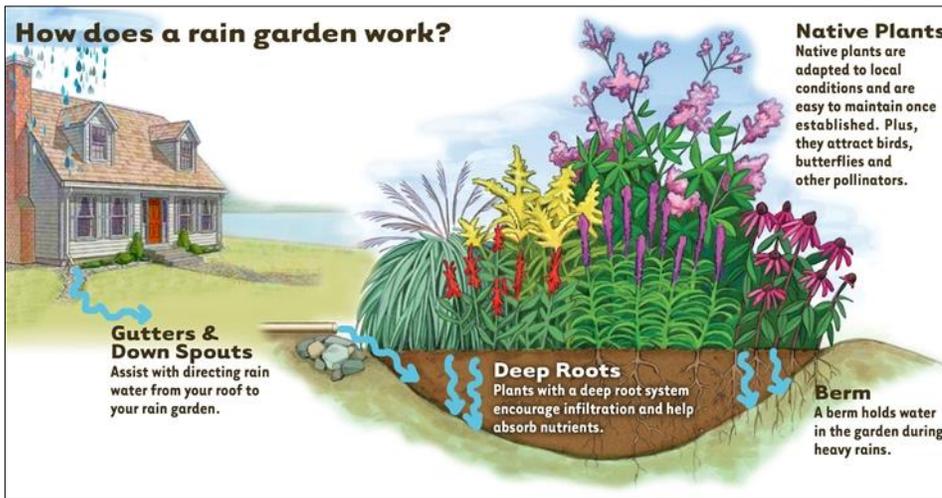


Image: www.watershedcouncil.org

For more information, visit the City of Minot Storm Water Webpage by clicking on the Engineering Department at minotnd.org

Nutrients in Dog Poo?

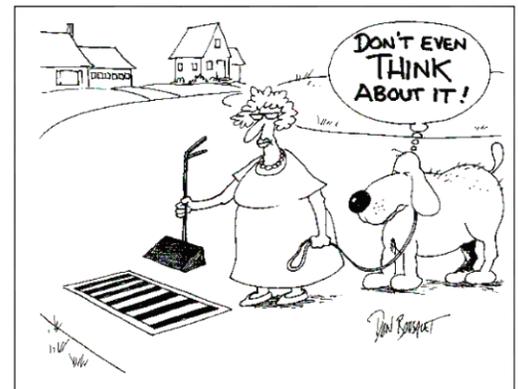
Did you know that your pet's waste can seriously degrade water quality? It can! Pet waste is high in bacteria and nutrients.

Nutrients? Isn't that a good thing? Not exactly, because pet waste is naturally high in phosphorous and nitrogen. These chemicals are also found in fertilizers. Once these "nutrients", disguised as poo, reach our waterways, they can contribute to algae growth. Algae absorbs the oxygen that fish need to survive. Algae can also lead to an even bigger problems known as algal blooms (Known locally as "Green Slime" in the river channels). These blooms can emit a toxin that is highly poisonous to humans and animals that come in contact with the water.

Bacteria in pet waste is known as fecal coliform. This bacteria can be associated with pathogens that are known to cause harm to humans.

Now you may be thinking, "Only scooping my dogs waste can't solve the problem." Wrong! A day's waste from one large dog can contain 7.8 million fecal coliform bacteria. Yuck!

What can you do to help? Always pack a plastic bag when you walk your dog. Use the bag as a glove to pick up the waste and dispose of it in a trash can.



<http://www.watershedcouncil.org/learn/stormwater-matters/>

“Dump No Waste, Drains to Fresh Water”

You would never think about dumping garbage into the Mouse River but if you let waste run down the storm drain, that is exactly what you're doing.

You may see messages (like this photo to the right) on storm drains when you are walking, running, or biking around town. This is a friendly reminder that only rain water and snowmelt should go down the storm drain.

It is important to understand where your water is going. Drinking water is treated at the water treatment plant before it comes to your home. Wastewater is treated after it leaves your home. Storm water flows along rooftops, yards, and streets and then flows **untreated** into the Mouse River. As storm water flows, it picks up sediment, leaves, chemicals, and anything else in its path.



Remember: Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!



Yard waste can be a major contributor to storm water pollution. Something as simple as fertilizing your yard directly before a rainstorm can cause harmful pollutants to wash down the storm drain. Want to know how you can help? Follow some of these helpful tips:

Consider installing a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from downspouts. It can be used to water the lawn, plants, and flowers.

Yard Maintenance - The Scoop

Lawn Maintenance:

- Mow your lawn often so you are not removing more than one third of the length of the grass.
- Mulch rather than bag the clippings.
- Sweep grass on paved areas rather than spraying it with water.
- Spot treat for weeds (preferably not before a rain storm).
- Clean up pet waste as soon as possible.

Watering:

- Do not overwater. Excessive runoff can cause more pollutants to make its way down the storm drain.
- Adjust sprinkler heads to ensure they are only spraying the grass. No need to water the sidewalk.

Fertilizer:

- Fertilize only when and if necessary.
- Do not fertilize if it might rain in the next few days.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the City of Minot Engineering Department:

Phone: (701) 857-4100

Email: engineers@minotnd.org

Online: www.minotnd.org
(go to Engineering Department)

North Dakota Department of Health:

<http://ndhealth.gov/WQ/Storm/StormWaterHome.htm>

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/>

Looking for Kids Activities?

Visit:
<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/kids/index.cfm>

The EPA has supplied kid friendly activities to educate them on pollution prevention and watershed protection.