

City of Wilsonville



DISCOVERING THE JOURNEY OF A RAINDROP

Have you ever wanted to follow a raindrop from a cloud to the sea?

Start



Ideally when rain falls it:

1. Infiltrates into the soil surface
2. Is absorbed by plants
3. Evaporates into the atmosphere

Any precipitation that is not infiltrated, absorbed or evaporated is considered stormwater runoff and includes the precipitation that flows over land surfaces and impervious areas.

Impervious surfaces include:

- ~ Parking lots
- ~ Roads
- ~ Buildings and rooftops
- ~ Compacted soil

Because the water is not absorbed into these surfaces, stormwater runoff can cause stream and river erosion, as well as flooding, when stormwater drains are overwhelmed.

Pollutants on roads, lawns, roofs, etc., when not infiltrated or treated, make their way to rivers, streams, lakes and oceans thus impairing water quality.

Finish



This is the first of a series of three posters on stormwater. Look for the next poster that will address measures and techniques to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. Questions? Call Lisa Nead, Environmental Education Specialist, City of Wilsonville, (503) 570-1570.

When living in a region with numerous and sometimes heavy rainfall events, applying integrated stormwater management systems help reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff.

