

Be the Solution to Storm Water Pollution



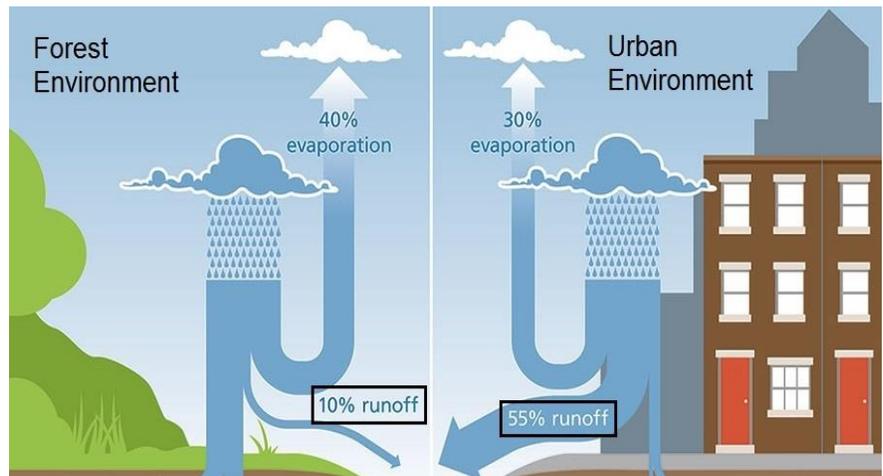
Pictured here is a used oil pan perched over a storm drain on a Kasson city street. Storm water drains directly to the river.

Hazardous waste is a common pollutant found in storm water runoff. Products used for household cleaning, lawn and garden care, motor oil, antifreeze and paints are the most common pollutants. Not only are these products bad for the environment, but dumping these products down a storm drain is illegal. Charlie Bradford, City of Kasson Public Works Director states, “Nothing should be dumped in storm drains. These are put into place to simply collect storm water and nothing else”.

Residents can take their paint, motor oil, and antifreeze to the Dodge County Transfer Station for free disposal. Other household hazardous waste products can be taken to the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility.

In a forested environment, the majority of precipitation soaks into the soil, or evaporates back into the atmosphere. In an urban environment, the amount of surface that is able to soak up water decreases which, in turn, means more water runs off.

With an increase in runoff comes an increase potential for pollutants that can harm our waterbodies. Typically in Dodge County’s small communities, storm water runoff that runs to street drains is discharged directly into rivers and streams.



There are many practices that residents can implement to help reduce the amount of pollution in storm water runoff. Homeowners can limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides on their lawns. Soil tests can help homeowners gauge whether or not a fertilizer is necessary. If fertilizer is needed, it’s important to follow product instructions closely and not apply if a heavy rain is predicted. Properly disposing of yard waste can also help reduce the storm water pollution. Leaves and grass clippings can be used as great materials for compost. Homeowners can mulch grass clippings and leave them on the lawn instead of bagging. Mulched grass clippings provide nutrients for the lawn and help keep the soil moist and cool.

Storm water pollution is manageable if residents are conscious about their actions and implement the best practices mentioned above to help protect our area rivers and streams.