

Nature

...Where You Are!

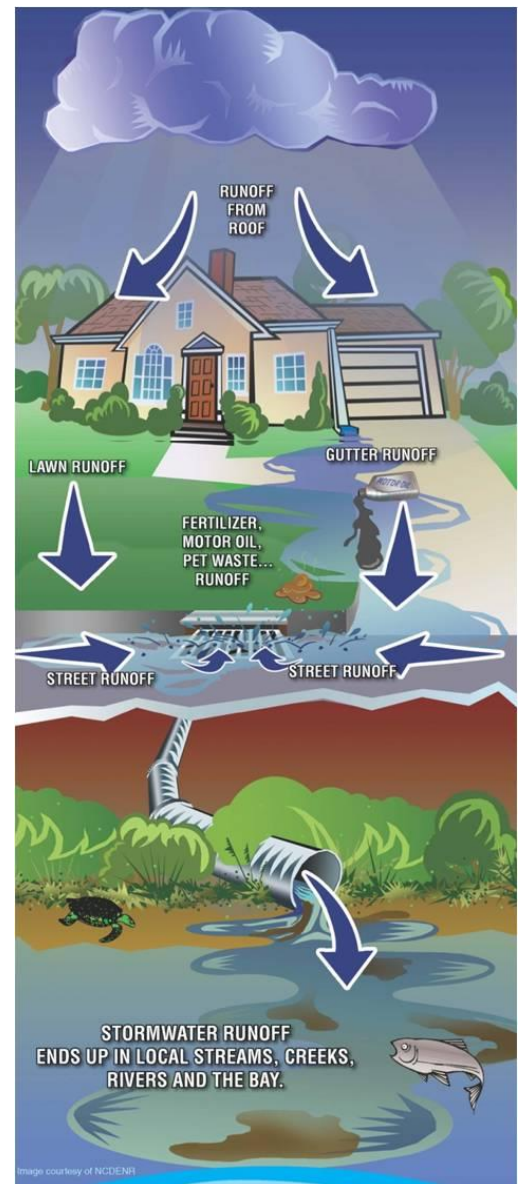
Stormwater Runoff Resource Map

In nature, rain water slowly seeps into the groundwater and flows towards creeks and rivers. Where people are present, however, we have to think about water a little differently. Stormwater runoff is the name we give to the rain water that flows off of roofs, streets, lawns, and the rest of our built environment. Sometimes, runoff can have negative effects such as flooding or carrying pollution, but when managed appropriately, runoff can support stable wildlife habitat and sustainably balance human needs with the services the ecosystem provides. In places where human-built structures exist alongside natural features, many factors influence the impact of stormwater runoff.

In this activity we'll pick a site to map, and pay special attention to the factors that increase or decrease the impact of stormwater runoff to gain a better sense of how we interact with the environment!

- 1) Pick a field site. The field site you choose could be your yard, a nearby park, or any open space— ideally with a mix of manmade and natural features!
- 2) Begin by drawing a map of the area, including any buildings, pavement, and vegetation. Draw arrows on your map indicating the direction that you think water would flow over the site.
- 3) Consider the pieces of your field site and decide whether you think they'd increase or decrease the amount of runoff. Also, think about the additional factors listed below:

Paved driveway, gravel driveway, large trees, grass lawn, shrubs, steep slope, even slope, rocky soil, soft soil, rain barrels, gutters with underground drainage pipes



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