

Why is stormwater run-off an issue?

When it rains in an undeveloped environment, less than 10% of rainwater is run-off and about 50% percent of the water is infiltrating down into the soil. The water going through the soil is being slowed and cleaned by roots, especially deep roots, like those from trees. As land becomes more impervious, through roads, buildings, parking lots, ect, less water is infiltrating down and more water is becoming run-off. As that water flows on the impervious surface, it picks up pollutants and takes them into the waterways. Where before the water was being cleaned and slowed, it is now polluted and rushing to the waterways, and creating flooding for homes and businesses.

In order to combat the negative side-effects of stormwater run-off, green infrastructure can be implemented by individuals or businesses to reintegrate the benefit of plants and pollution mitigation can be utilized to decrease the pollution that is being brought to the creeks, streams, and rivers.

