



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 infiltrates into the soil. The water going through the soil is slowed and cleaned by roots, especially deep roots, like those from trees. It also refills our underground aquifer, which is important for recharging springs and residential wells, and to ensure our streams have water during droughts. As land becomes more impervious, through roads, buildings, parking lots, etc., less water infiltrates and more becomes run-off. As water flows across impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants and flushes them directly into a nearby waterway. Where before the water was being cleaned and slowed, it is now polluted and rushed directly to a waterway, which can also overwhelm the stream and flood homes and businesses.

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.

