

# WHAT IS STORMWATER?

When rain falls or when the snow melts in our city, where do you think the water goes? Does it soak into the ground? Does it sit in puddles until it disappears? If you answered yes, you are partially right. Some of the water flows over the land surface, heading downhill to the nearest stream or ditch. We call this stormwater runoff.

In cities and towns, the water can't soak through the pavement, rooftops, and concrete. This means that there's more stormwater runoff in cities than in woods and fields. The water collects in gutters and usually flows straight into a storm drain. You would recognize a storm drain as the big grate in the road where the water disappears. Actually, it connects to a pipe which carries the water directly to our local streams, creeks and lakes.

