

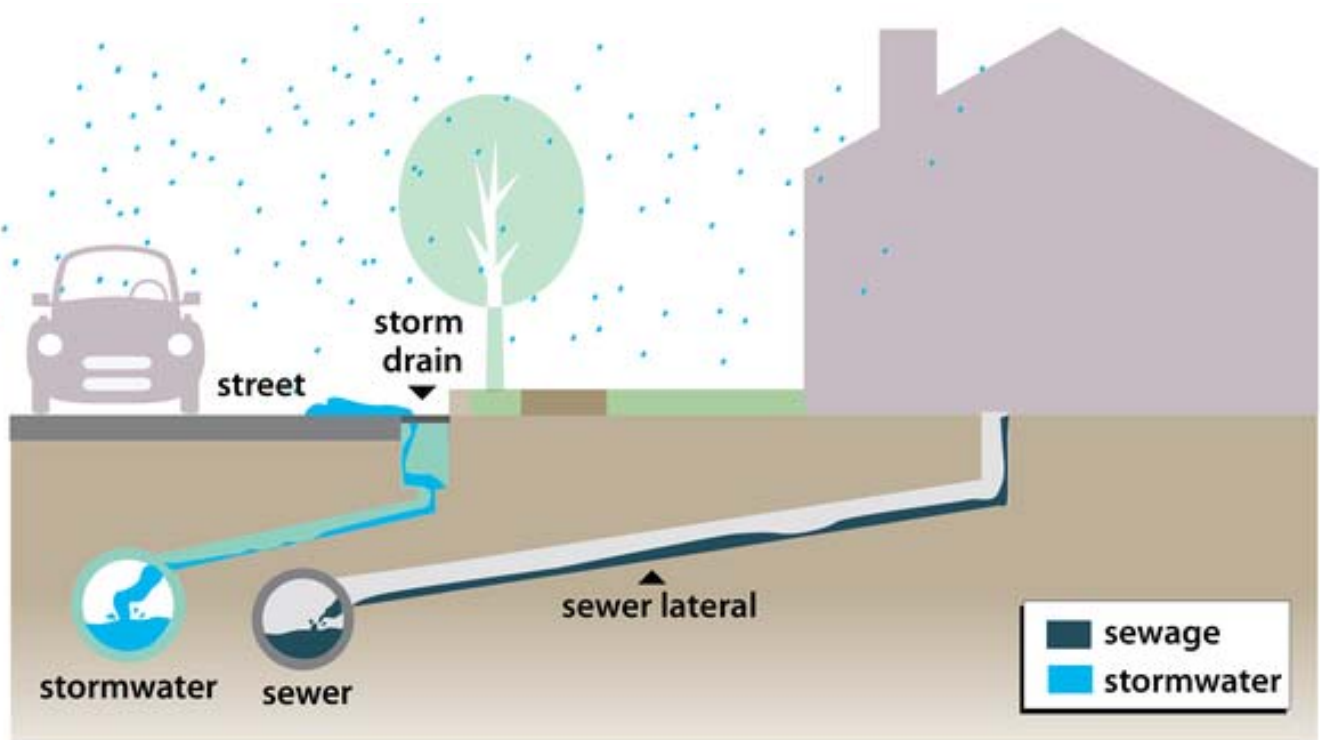
# What Is Stormwater? Why Do We Manage It?

In a natural environment, rain is mostly absorbed by plants, soil, and trees. When it rains in the city, the water flows over hard surfaces like rooftops, parking lots, streets, sidewalks, and driveways. It picks up pollution along the way, like oil from cars on the streets. This is called “stormwater runoff.” This stormwater runoff carries that pollution into our rivers and streams. Unmanaged stormwater, which is when the rain has no place to flow safely like into a pipe, ditch, or green street planter, can cause flooding, erosion, landslides, sewer backups into homes and businesses, and sewage overflows into our rivers and streams. This can harm people, wildlife, property, and the environment.

Important federal and state laws, such as the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, are in place to protect water quality in our rivers, streams, and groundwater. These laws require us to manage the stormwater runoff created by our urban environment in order to protect both surface waters and groundwater.

The City of Canby works with residents and businesses to manage stormwater to protect water quality, public health, and the environment.

The City of Canby has a separated system for sewage and stormwater which are collected and carried by two separate pipes. Sewage goes directly to the treatment plant, while stormwater flows either to a location where it is held until it can soak into the ground (bioswale or UIC for example), a drainage basin or wetland, or to the Molalla River directly or via creeks.



Not to scale. For illustration only. BES 2104 MAR2021

## Here is a list of typical contaminants found in urban stormwater runoff:

Urban stormwater pollutants	Common sources
Sediments and particulates	Atmosphere, erosion, vehicle wear, industrial activities
Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous)	Atmosphere, fertilizers, detergents
Heavy metals (zinc, lead, iron, mercury, copper, cadmium, chromium, nickel, manganese, cyanide)	Fungicides, insecticides, galvanized building materials, tire wear, motor oil, engine parts, rust, machinery, erosion, industrial activities
Hydrocarbons (petroleum products)	Spills, leaks, antifreeze, hydraulic fluids, asphalt surface leachate
Organic compounds (phthalate esters, phenolic compounds, and volatile organics)	Pesticides, plastics, cleaners
Microorganisms (bacteria and viruses)	Combined sewer overflows, illicit connections, pet waste
Salts (sodium, magnesium and chlorides)	Road de-icing salts