How Does the City of Canby Manage Stormwater?

1. Stormwater Can Soak into the Ground

In nature, rain soaks into the ground where it is absorbed by plants and trees. That is possible in the city, too. The City of Canby invests in bio-swales, tree planting, native landscapes, community projects, and restoration of natural floodplains and wetlands to help create more places where stormwater can be collected, stored, and then slowly soak into the ground. This helps prevent flooding, erosion, and pollution of our rivers and streams. It also helps restore and protect habitats for wildlife, including endangered salmon.

Stormwater Bio-swale Located at Dragonberry Produce, Inc.

2. Stormwater Can Flow into a River or Stream

Some city storm drains lead directly to a river or stream. This means we need to watch what goes into storm drains! If you wouldn't dump something in the river (like used paint or motor oil), don't dump it into a storm drain.

Another major source of water pollution is what the rain picks up from our streets, parking lots, yards, and gardens on its way to a stream. Citizens and property owners play an important role in helping reduce this form of water pollution. Eliminating chemical fertilizers and pesticides from our yards and gardens or regularly maintaining our cars so they don't leak fluids onto the street or driveway are activities that help reduce water pollution.

3. Underground injection control (UIC)

These are underground structures that collect and filter pollutants out of stormwater before allowing the water to soak into the ground. The water then replenishes groundwater supplies. The City of Canby maintains about 460 UICs around the city. UIC's are basically large, cylindrical, concrete tanks with perforated sides (sides with several holes about the size of a softball) that descend generally 30 feet below the street. Storm drains direct stormwater first into a catch basin that separates out garbage and pollutants and then to the sump where the water soaks out of the many holes into the surrounding soil.