MANAGING WATER WHERE IT FALLS

Healthy People, Property, and Watersheds
AGENDA

Why Worry About Stormwater?
Assessing Your Property
Managing Your Stormwater
Being Engaged
WHY WORRY ABOUT STORMWATER?

Excessive rainfall overwhelms the drainage system

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Water backs up and causes localized flooding
WHY WORRY ABOUT STORMWATER?

Stormwater picks up pollutants
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Pollutants are pumped untreated into surrounding water bodies
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Quality of our natural water resources degrades
WHY WORRY ABOUT STORMWATER?

Measures that slow water down, hold it, and allow it to soak into the ground reduce the burden on our pumping system and protect against pollution.
ASSESSING YOUR PROPERTY

Sketch:

- Property outline
- Built structures
- Impervious surfaces
- Points of concentrated stormwater (downspouts, pipes, edges of hard surfaces)
ASSESSING YOUR PROPERTY

Pollutant Sources:

- Roof downspouts
- Drain connections to the curb
- Paved and other hard surfaces
- Non vegetated areas
- Dirt piles
- Leaf litter
- Trash and debris
What opportunities exist to manage stormwater on-site?

- Backyard rain garden
- Rain barrel
- Stormdrain cleaning
- Gravel trench
- Planter box
- Stormdrain cleaning
Be mindful of:

- Space slope/elevation
- Existing structures
- Poorly draining soil
Make sure...

- Water always drains away from structures:
  - 2 ft away from crawl spaces, porch steps, garages or walkways
  - 6 ft from a basement and retaining wall
  - 5 ft from the property line
- Use a splash block to absorb the energy of falling water and prevent erosion
- The ground slopes away from structures
- Avoid draining water onto impermeable plastic weed barrier fabric
**Downspout Reroute**

Disconnects your downspouts from existing standpipes & lets water flow over landscaped areas or lawns

- Drainage area must be at least 10% of the roof area:
  - Example: 1,500 sf rooftop = 150 sf landscape
- Drainage area must be landscaped
- Stay away 5 ft from your neighbors’ property line and 3 ft from the sidewalk
Planter Box
A bioretention structure comprised of plants, soil, gravel and sand that holds rainwater usually received from a downspout

- Water drains into the planter box
- Water to soaks through the layers
- Plants to absorb water
- Soil absorbs water and filters pollutants
- An under drain system alleviates flooding of the box
MANAGING YOUR STORMWATER
Rain Barrel

Rainwater capturing feature that collects and stores water for non-potable usage

- Mosquito Dunks, nontoxic bacterium, kills mosquito larvae
- Filling the barrel before hurricanes to hold it down
- Clean and rinse the barrel frequently
French Drain (aka Gravel Trench)

Long, narrow, gravel-filled ditch that catches and treats stormwater runoff

- Ideal for narrow spaces alongside buildings and driveways
- For receiving water from downspouts
MANAGING YOUR STORMWATER
Raingarden
Landscape feature designed to collect, retain, and infiltrate rainwater runoff before it can enter a storm drain

- Allows water to percolate back into the ground
- Recharges the water table
- Filters pollutants, heavy metals, oil and grease
MANAGING YOUR STORMWATER
Storm Drain Cleaning

Capture litter, dirt, and debris to ensure flow from our streets can enter into the system without carrying with it harmful pollutants.
Storm Drain Marking
An educational exercise, most effective when paired with drain cleaning. Request markers through the Bayou Land RC&D Council or the Sewerage and Water Board by calling 52-Water.
All of our resources can be found online at
www.waterwisennola.org
If you notice anything other than rain flowing into the street or down a storm drain, it could be a stormwater violation.

Please report violations to the STORMWATER HOTLINE
New Orleans (504) 52-WATER or (504) 529-2837
Jefferson Parish (504) 731-4612

For large spills in non-residential settings call Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Single Point of Contact (LDEQ-SPOC) hotline: (225) 342-1234
Actively Protecting our Watershed

- Sweep, instead of hosing off the driveway, street, or sidewalk
- Clean a stormdrain or two on your block
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly
- Safely dispose of household cleaners and motor oil
- Compost or mulch yard waste
- Clean up after your pet
- Do not wash your car in the driveway
THANK YOU