

Ipswich River Stormwater Prevent Polluted Runoff



Photo credit: Ipswich River Watershed Association

Stormwater runoff is the most significant source of pollution to the Ipswich River. Water from rain, snowmelt, and irrigation can flow across roads and parking lots where it picks up oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and other pollutants and deposits them in our rivers and streams.

Reducing lawn and pavement and adding native plants helps keep polluted runoff from ending up in storm drains and the river.

When stormwater doesn't soak into the ground, it either flows directly into the river or into storm drains that lead to rivers and streams. Polluted runoff degrades water quality, which harms wildlife, impedes recreation, and causes shellfish beds to be closed to harvest.

Here's how you can help prevent stormwater pollution no matter where you live:

- Plant native plants to soak up rain and avoid using chemical pesticides and fertilizers
- Reduce pavement on your property
- Maintain your vehicles to prevent oil leaks
- Never dump anything into storm drains
- Always pick up dog waste and dispose in the trash

Preventing polluted runoff is good for you, plants, and wildlife.

