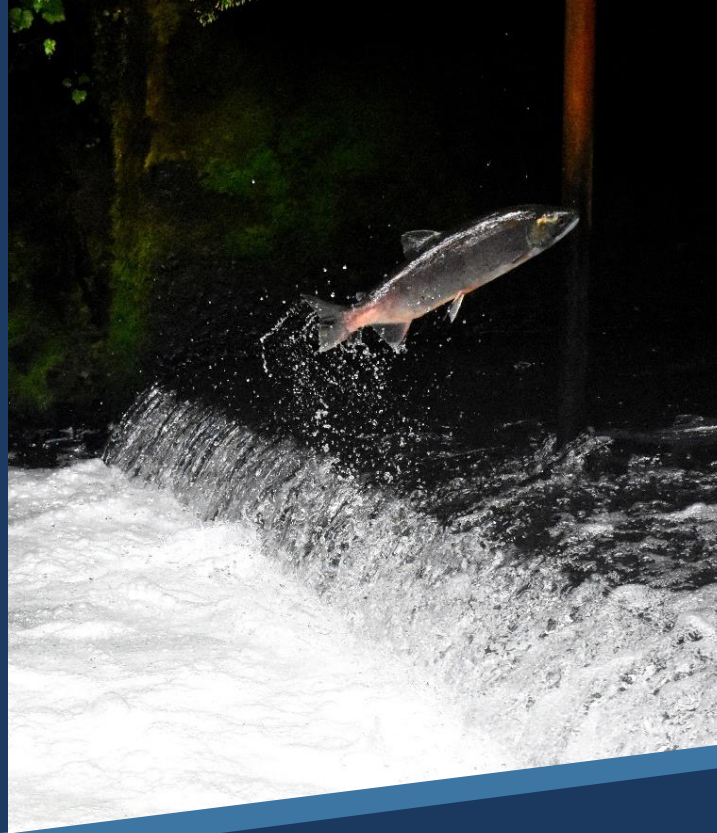


**Benton County is working to implement a Stormwater Management Plan.**

**Everyone who lives, visits, or recreates in Benton County has a part in improving stormwater quality.**

**It's about improving water quality...**

***And you can help!***



***ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMWATER?***



**Want to get involved?  
Scan the QR code above or visit us at:  
[pw.bentoncountyor.gov/stormwater](http://pw.bentoncountyor.gov/stormwater)**

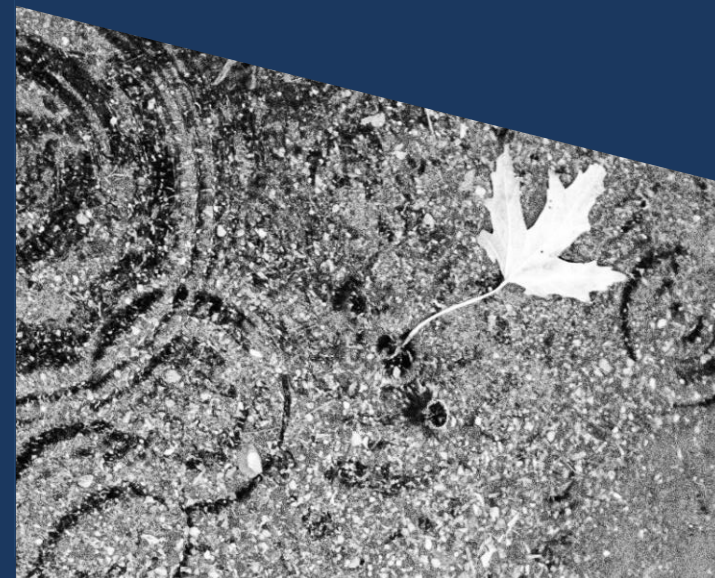


**Benton  
County**  
OREGON

**Benton County | Public Works**  
360 SE Avery Avenue  
Corvallis, OR 97333

Phone: 541-766-6821  
Fax: 541-766-6891

**WHAT IS STORMWATER?  
WHY IS IT REGULATED?  
HOW CAN YOU HELP?**



## WHY IS IT REGULATED?

Stormwater regulations are part of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality places responsibility for stormwater management on counties and cities. Benton County has been issued a Stormwater Phase II Permit and must comply with the conditions of the permit. The County is required by law to implement a stormwater quality program.

Stormwater from one area often becomes drinking water for another area. Fish, wildlife, and people are affected by poor water quality or by increased flows from stormwater.

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### Photo Credits [www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com):

Storm Drain: Lance Grandahl  
Rainy Window: Suhyeon Choi  
Puddle with Leaf: Gary Meulemans  
Clouds: Michael Diane Weidner  
Jumping Salmon: Drew Farwell

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### The Benton County Stormwater Phase II Permit Requires:

- ✓ Public Education
- ✓ Public Participation
- ✓ Pollution Detection and Enforcement
- ✓ Construction Runoff Control
- ✓ Stormwater Controls
- ✓ Good Housekeeping

### How to protect stormwater quality:

- ✓ Clean up vehicle spills.
- ✓ Throw pet waste in the trash.
- ✓ Limit the amount of impervious surface on your property.
- ✓ Use porous paving surfaces such as wood decking, open-celled bricks, or concrete pavers that allow water to soak into the ground.
- ✓ Drain roof gutters away from the foundation, onto grass or toward landscaping.
- ✓ Allow thick vegetation or “buffer strips” to slow runoff and soak up pollutants.
- ✓ Plant drought tolerant or native species when you can.
- ✓ Aerate and avoid over-fertilizing lawns.
- ✓ Sweep up litter and debris from driveways instead of hosing debris into gutter and/or storm drains.
- ✓ Call your contract waste management company for disposal of household chemicals such as paint or oil.

## WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is any precipitation that collects in a natural or constructed storage or moves through a drainage system following a storm event. Not all rain that falls is absorbed by lawns and natural areas. Rain and melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground flows overland into gutters, ditches, and streams – this is stormwater runoff. During construction of new roads, neighborhoods, and buildings, native vegetation and ground cover are removed and the exposed soil can be transported by stormwater runoff.

After construction activities, impervious areas such as roads, roof tops, parking areas, and sidewalks prevent infiltration of moisture from rain and snowfall, thus increasing stormwater runoff.

This runoff can be too much for the existing natural drainage systems to handle.

Pollutants and sediment often flow into storm sewers and lined channels. The stormwater runoff is then discharged to downstream waters such as streams, reservoirs, lakes, and wetlands.

**“Stormwater runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events often contain pollutants that could adversely affect water quality”.**

