

Stormwater



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off streets, roofs, lawns, and parking areas. When stormwater is absorbed into the ground, it replenishes aquifers, streams and rivers. In developed areas, however, impervious surfaces such as pavement and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, water runs rapidly into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches and can cause:

- Downstream flooding
- Stream bank erosion
- Increased turbidity (muddiness created by stirred up sediment) from erosion
- Habitat destruction
- Fluctuations in stream flows and volumes
- Combined sewer overflows
- Infrastructure damage
- Contaminated streams, rivers and oceans

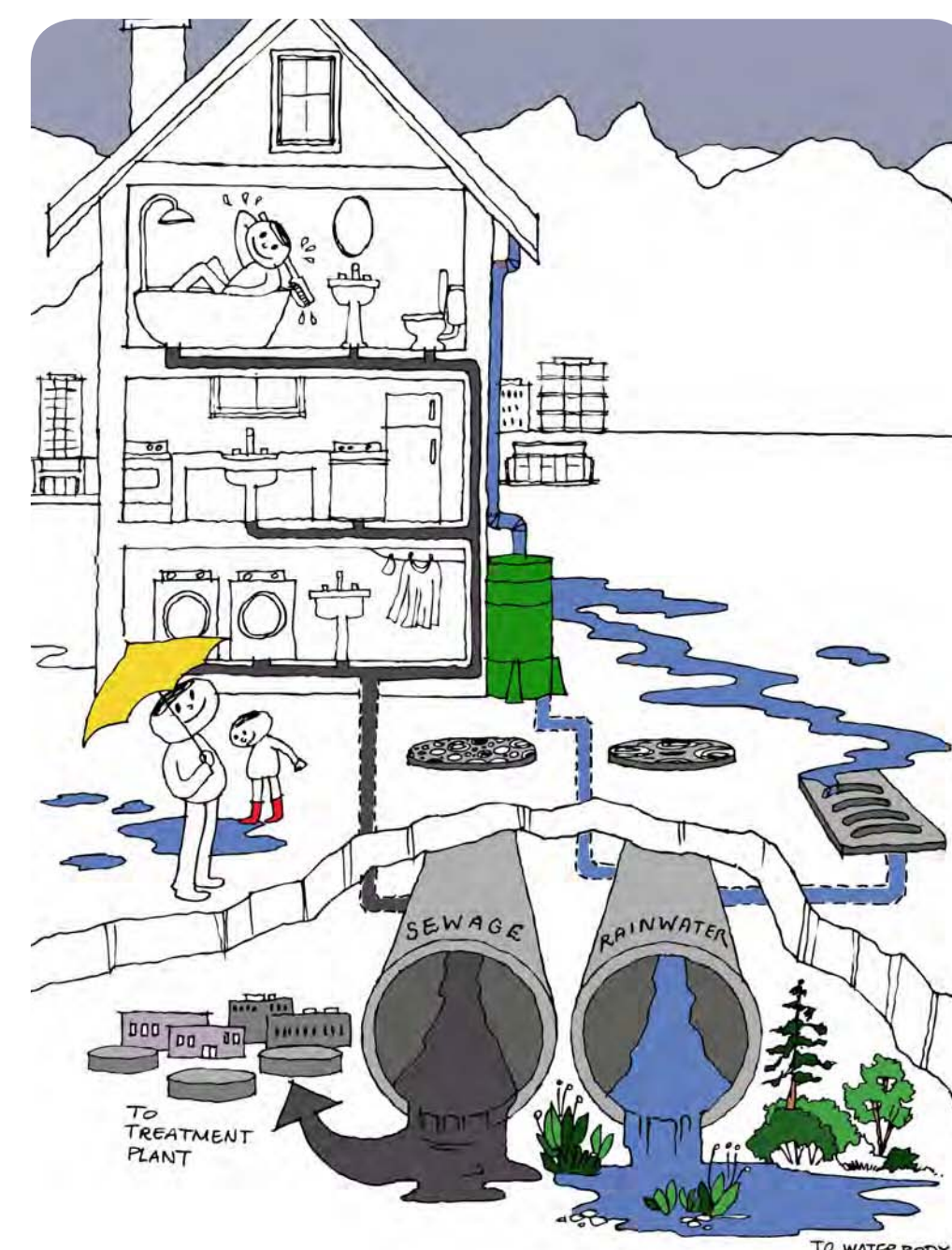
The City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan is committed to developing more natural stormwater systems that clean water and allow it to soak back into the ground.

Did you Know?

Rain water from the Trout Lake Community Centre roof is collected and runs through a natural swale to Trout Lake, rather than being piped into the stormwater system. This supports the goal of natural stormwater infiltration.



You can see stormwater management in action outside the community centre. Stop by and take a look!



Is it Stormwater or Sewer Water?

The master plan will focus on stormwater which would be captured and managed separately from sewer water.

Check out this diagram to see the difference between the two types of systems.

Trout Lake & Stormwater

Trout Lake has the potential to play an important role in the City's stormwater system. Stormwater could be collected, filtered and diverted into the lake where it could infiltrate and recharge groundwater through natural processes.

This may change the way that Trout Lake functions today. Check out the next board for more information on Trout Lake.

Share Your Ideas & Knowledge About Stormwater

Do you have a question, comment or idea about stormwater?

Write it on a sticky and share it here.

