



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

A resident's guide to understanding the stormwater system in Chamblee.

STORMWATER RUNOFF

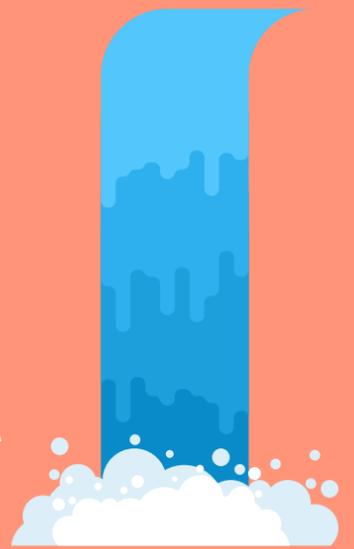


Stormwater runoff is rainfall and snowmelt that does not soak into the ground, but instead flows over land or through stormwater infrastructure into nearby waterways.

Stormwater **IS NOT TREATED** at a water quality facility, thus it must be properly managed to avoid environmental impacts such as waterway pollution and contamination, erosion and flooding.

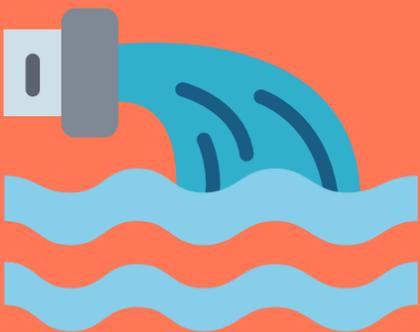
WATERSHEDS & WATERWAYS

A watershed is all the land area that drains into a stream, river, lake or other body of water. Chamblee is comprised of two watersheds, Nancy Creek and North Fork Peachtree Creek. The City also has four impaired streams that are too polluted to meet the state's water quality standards: Arrow Creek, Bubbling Creek, Nancy Creek and North Fork Peachtree Creek.



STORMWATER SYSTEM

Chamblee has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) that is comprised of gray and green infrastructure. Gray systems, including curbs, gutters, inlets and pipes move stormwater away from the built environment to a nearby waterbody, while green systems such as rain gardens, bioswales, trees, and wetlands capture rainwater where it falls and treats the stormwater at the source.



SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

Sanitary sewer systems collect and transport sewage to treatment facilities for cleaning. Chamblee's sanitary sewer system is owned and operated by DeKalb County and is separate from the City's stormwater system.



PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE SYSTEMS

The City maintains:

- Infrastructure on City-owned property
- Inlets & pipes completely within the right of way of City-maintained roads
- Pipes from the right of way of City-maintained roads to the first structure (junction, headwall, inlet, etc.) on private property with drainage easements

Stormwater infrastructure not maintained by the City is considered a private system and must be maintained by the private property owner, homeowner's association, or by another governmental entity.



IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, patios and rooftops do not allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. As stormwater flows across impervious surfaces, it collects pollutants as it makes its way into nearby streams. 30-55% of stormwater is considered runoff in areas, such as Chamblee, with medium and high density development.

POLLUTANTS

Non-point source pollution does not have a clear identifiable source. Common non-point source pollutants include cigarette butts, fertilizers and pesticides, pet waste, litter, motor oil, and sediment. Point source pollution comes from a single obvious source such as a construction site or industrial factory.



Pet waste is a common stream pollutant and contains high levels of fecal coliform. As it decomposes, it depletes oxygen levels and increases algae growth in Chamblee's waterways, creating an inhabitable environment for fish and other aquatic animals. High levels of fecal coliform are also attributed to public health hazards and can lead to outbreaks of waterborne illnesses such as gastroenteritis.

SCOOP THE POOP!

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

An illicit discharge is any non-stormwater discharge that enters into the stormwater system. If a measurable flow is seen in the stormwater system during dry weather conditions, it is likely there is an illicit discharge. Common examples are car washes, dumpster juice and dumping liquids directly into storm drains. If you notice an illicit discharge, contact the City at 770-986-5010.



DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are used to treat, prevent and reduce water pollution from a construction site and include practices such as silt fences, inlet protection and site stabilization. Low impact development (LID) is another approach to protecting water quality and includes measures such as minimizing impervious surfaces, soil disturbance and site clearing.

