

stormwater and Trees

Urban Stormwater

It flows on top of paved surfaces to nearby rivers and streams picking up...

NUTRIENTS & BACTERIA: Lawn fertilizers and animal waste

Major cause of shellfish closures in Puget Sound

COPPER: Brake pad deposits on paved surfaces from vehicle wear and tear, pesticides
Toxic to fish at low levels

PAHS: Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from woodstove and fireplace combustion, vehicle combustion, creosote-treated wood
Toxic to humans as it enters the food chain

OTHER HEAVY METALS: Roof material leaching, vehicle tire abrasion, aviation fuel combustion
Toxic to wildlife and people

OIL & PETROLEUM: Drips, leaks, and emissions from vehicles

Stormwater drains concentrate large volumes of water and pollutants

How much stormwater?
For every inch of rainfall, one acre of paved surface can generate 27,150 gallons of runoff

Stormwater picks up many contaminants on its way to creeks and the Ohio River.

However, trees can help prevent water runoff by providing other places for the water to go. In addition to promoting absorption, leaf coverage also protects soil from erosion.

