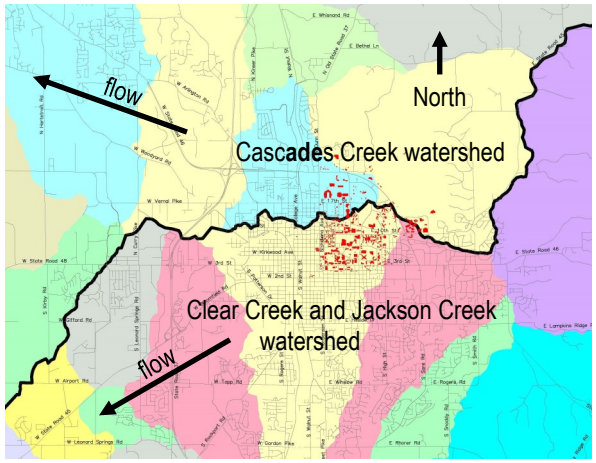
Watersheds



Watershed divide line (black) and flow direction of Bloomington's main streams

Bloomington is divided by two main **watersheds**, or areas of land that drain to particular bodies of water—**Cascades Creek** drains to the northwest and Clear Creek as well as **Jackson Creek** drain to the southwest. The dividing line flows roughly along 10th Street. Storm drains, pipes and ditches follow these same gravity flow directions.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN...

Contact Information

Presentations and activities are available for schools, neighborhoods, service organizations and more, including:

- **ADOPT-A-DRAIN**
- **Storm Drain Marking** program
- Recognizing and reporting **illegal dumping**
- **Green infrastructure**
- Using **native plants** to help filter rain water in rain gardens
- **Erosion** and **sediment** control
- **Project WET** (Water Education for Teachers)
- **Caves** and **karst**
- **Hoosier Riverwatch**: Stream monitoring

For more information on these programs and to sign up, please contact:

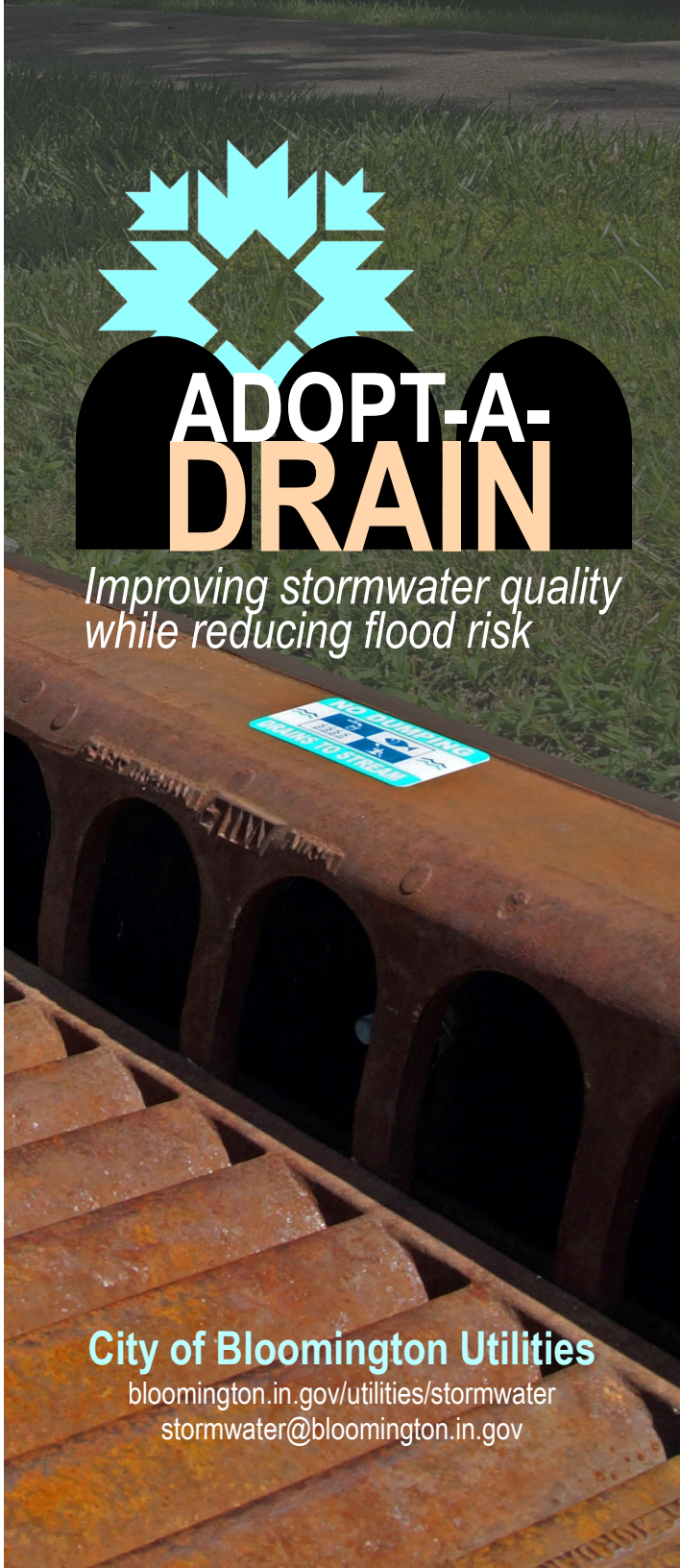
Kriste Lindberg
Stormwater Education Specialist
City of Bloomington Utilities
(812) 349-3617
stormwater@bloomington.in.gov
bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater
bloomington.in.gov/utilities/adopt-a-drain
Facebook: City of Bloomington, IN—Utilities

Reporting:

See something that doesn't look quite right, like an unusual substance running into a storm drain? Only rain should enter storm drains. To report pollutants in stormwater, please fill out a City of Bloomington ***uReport*** at the following website address:

https://bloomington.in.gov/ureport/

Updated: 06/16/20



STORM DRAINS

The **ADOPT-A-DRAIN** program is a consolidated effort by City departments to work with **volunteers** in order to increase stormwater quality and reduce stormwater quantity on road surfaces.

There are close to **12,000 storm drains** and 99 miles of streams and ditches in Bloomington.

Storm drain inlets can become clogged with debris - **grass clippings, leaves, trash and more** - creating water pollution and encouraging the risk of erosion and flooding.

The public is encouraged to **help keep storm drains clear of debris** by participating in the **ADOPT-A-DRAIN** program.

It is a great opportunity for individuals and groups, alike, to be proactive and clear material before rain events to help with water quality and quantity concerns.

Stormwater

When it rains, the rain water can carry pollutants from the street into storm drains. This rain water is known as “stormwater” or “runoff”.

These storm drains are inlets and lead directly to our waterways, including **streams, ponds, and lakes**. Pollution control is needed to prevent excess lawn fertilizer and other pollutants such as pet waste, plastics, and more, from entering storm drains and polluting our stormwater.

Stormwater Quality

*Did you know that our storm drains **do not filter** and remove pollutants?*

In our city, rainwater **runoff** mostly flows into storm drains, through pipes, and into nearby streams, rivers, lakes, or even sinkholes and caves (which can drain directly to underground channels of water).

This stormwater runoff can carry various types of **pollutants** as it flows over the landscape, depending on the particular landuse. For example, in urban areas—yard waste, motor oil, litter, etc.

Point and Non-Point Source Pollution

You can think of **Point Source** pollution (which is regulated under the Clean Water Act) as that which you are actually able to see, such as a pipe from a factory discharging into a stream; whereas **Non-point Source** pollution (what this program is all about!) is stormwater runoff that does not have a defined source, such as motor oil that appears in a stream after passing through a subdivision storm drain system during a rain event.

The former, Point Source pollution, makes up approximately 25% of water pollution whereas the latter, Non-point Source pollution, contributes the vast majority of water pollution, approximately 75% or more.

Runoff can carry **pollutants** such as those mentioned in the previous section.

What you can do to make a difference…

- Only let **rain** go down the storm drain
- Keep mowed **grass, leaves,** and **trash** out of storm drains
- Follow label directions for **pesticides** and **fertilizers**
- Dispose of used **motor oil** properly (contact the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District, http://gogreendistrict.com/)
- Wash your car at a **car wash** (they have filters and the water drains to the wastewater sewer plant, where it is cleaned)
- **Mark storm drains** to educate others and spread awareness!

Note: These practices can also help to reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms!

Please help us protect our community’s waterways.

A Brighten B-town Storm Drain Marking Event—2019

You can help maintain good water quality in our streams!