



## Why should I care about water quality?

Paved and impervious surfaces, including roads, driveways, and rooftops, do not allow stormwater runoff to soak into the ground. As it flows over impervious surfaces, stormwater picks up pollutants and debris such as dirt and sediment, motor oil, and litter. Stormwater can even pick up pollutants like fertilizer, pesticides and pet waste when it flows over your lawns and gardens. Stormwater runoff is not treated before entering the storm drain and may carry trash or nonpoint source pollutants into our lakes and streams. This can have a big impact on surface water quality. It harms our ability to use our rivers and lakes for swimming and fishing and makes treating our drinking water more expensive.

But you can help reduce the amount of these pollutants in your community! By taking simple actions to keep your local waterways clean or joining community clean up and water quality monitoring events, you can be the solution to stormwater pollution.



## The Clean Water Campaign

The Clean Water Campaign is a collaborative multi-agency education and outreach effort coordinated by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for the 15-county Metro Atlanta area. The Clean Water Campaign's mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions.

Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution!  
#stormwaterpollutionprevention



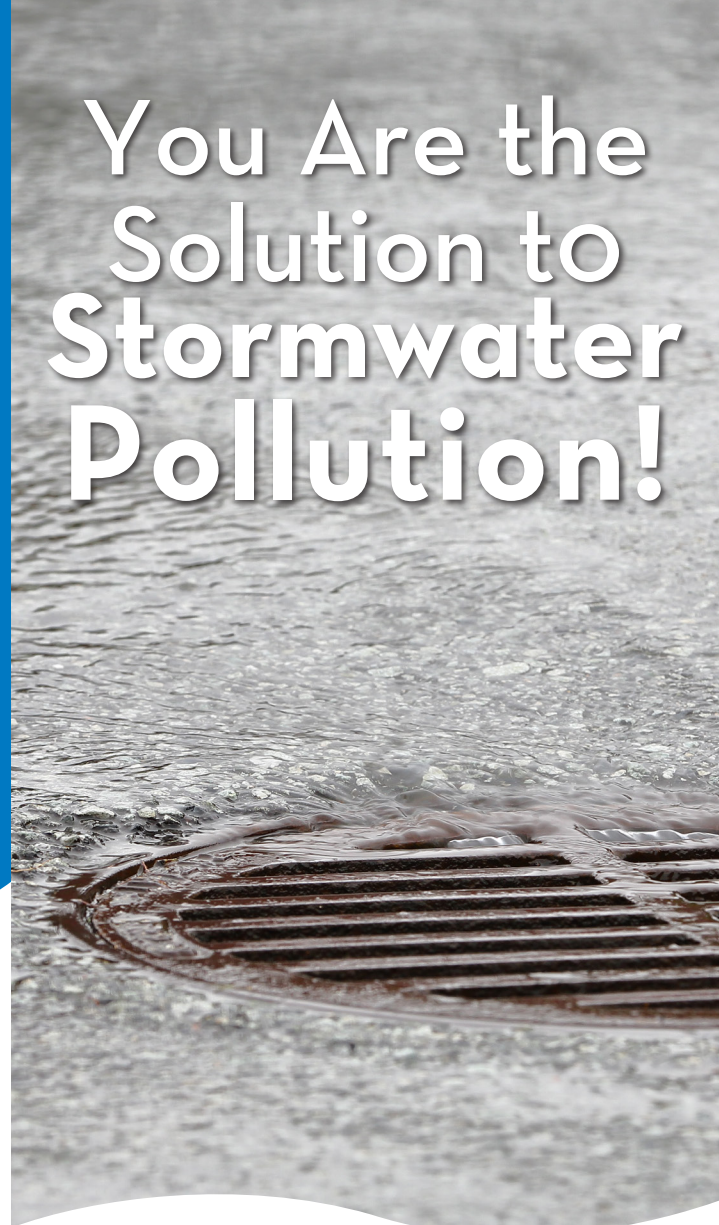
The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District serves as the water planning organization for the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, which encompasses the following counties and their respective municipalities: Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign  
[www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)



@NorthGAWater | [comments@northgeorgiawater.com](mailto:comments@northgeorgiawater.com)

# You Are the Solution to Stormwater Pollution!







## What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water flowing on the surface of the ground resulting from rain events. Stormwater runoff soaks into the soil, evaporates from natural and built surfaces, or flows into lakes, streams and other waterbodies. It collects in lakes and streams by moving through a system of storm drains and pipes or flowing over land. When the system is maintained properly and when we do our part to keep it clean of pollutants, stormwater can be a great resource to keep lawns and other vegetation healthy. It contributes to maintaining groundwater and surface water flows that support aquatic life and habitat and provide resiliency in times of drought.

## 10 simple solutions for stormwater pollution!

1. Never dump anything onto the street, down a storm drain or into a drainage ditch. Only rain down the storm drain!
2. Pick up after your pet. Be sure to bag their waste and throw it into the trash.
3. Compost or bag your grass clippings and leaves for curbside collection. Never blow grass and leaves into the storm drain.
4. Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.
5. Don't be a litter bug. Properly dispose of your trash.
6. Keep your septic system maintained to prevent failure.
7. Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them as soon as possible.
8. Always recycle your motor oil and other vehicle fluids.
9. Wash your car over a grassy area or at a commercial car wash, not on your driveway.
10. Use stormwater as a resource. Install a rain garden or direct your gutter downspouts to the lawn or garden where it can soak into the ground instead of flow to the street.



## How can I get more involved?

There are many different ways to get involved in the Clean Water Campaign. Here are just a few:

- ◆ Invite a Clean Water Campaign partner to speak at your next civic or neighborhood meeting. Contact [education@northgeorgiawater.com](mailto:education@northgeorgiawater.com).
- ◆ Visit [www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com) for more detailed information on ways to prevent stormwater pollution.
- ◆ Volunteer for a local stream cleanup! Visit [riversalive.georgia.gov](http://riversalive.georgia.gov) to participate in or host a stream or lakefront cleanup in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Visit [www.adoptastream.georgia.gov](http://www.adoptastream.georgia.gov) to find out how you can become a stream monitoring volunteer for your local stream or creek.
- ◆ If you see stormwater pollution happening and it appears that no effort is being made to address it, you can report it to your local authorities on pollution control and public health.

**YOU can make a difference! You ARE the solution to stormwater pollution!**

