

Stormwater Impacts on District Waterbodies:

Why the District Needs Stormwater Retention



When it rains,

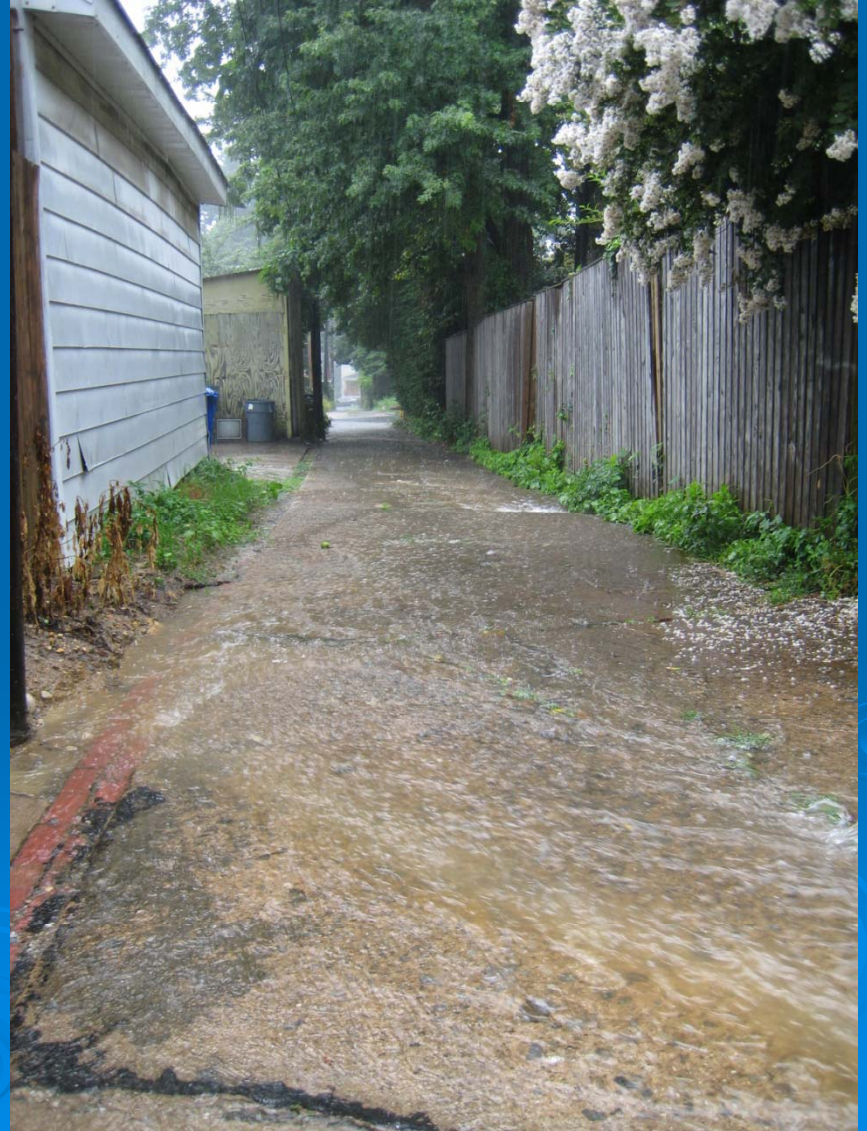
Stormwater runs off roads...



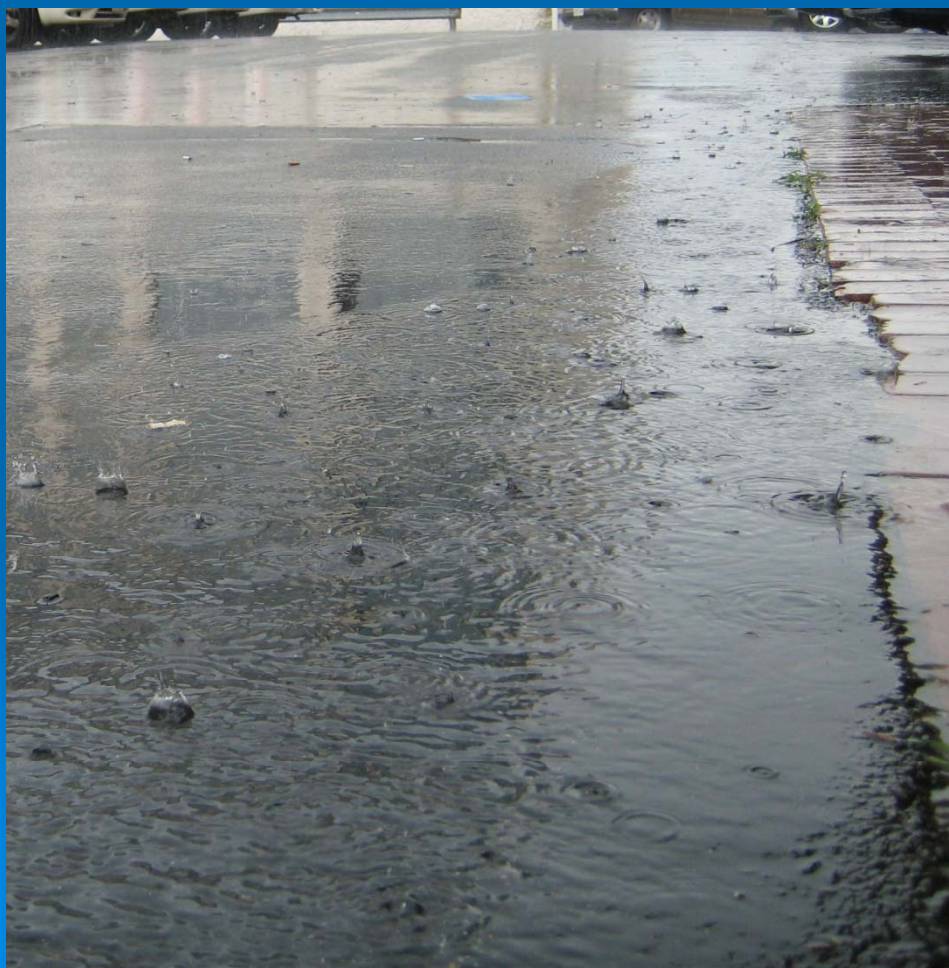
...rooftops...



...alleys...

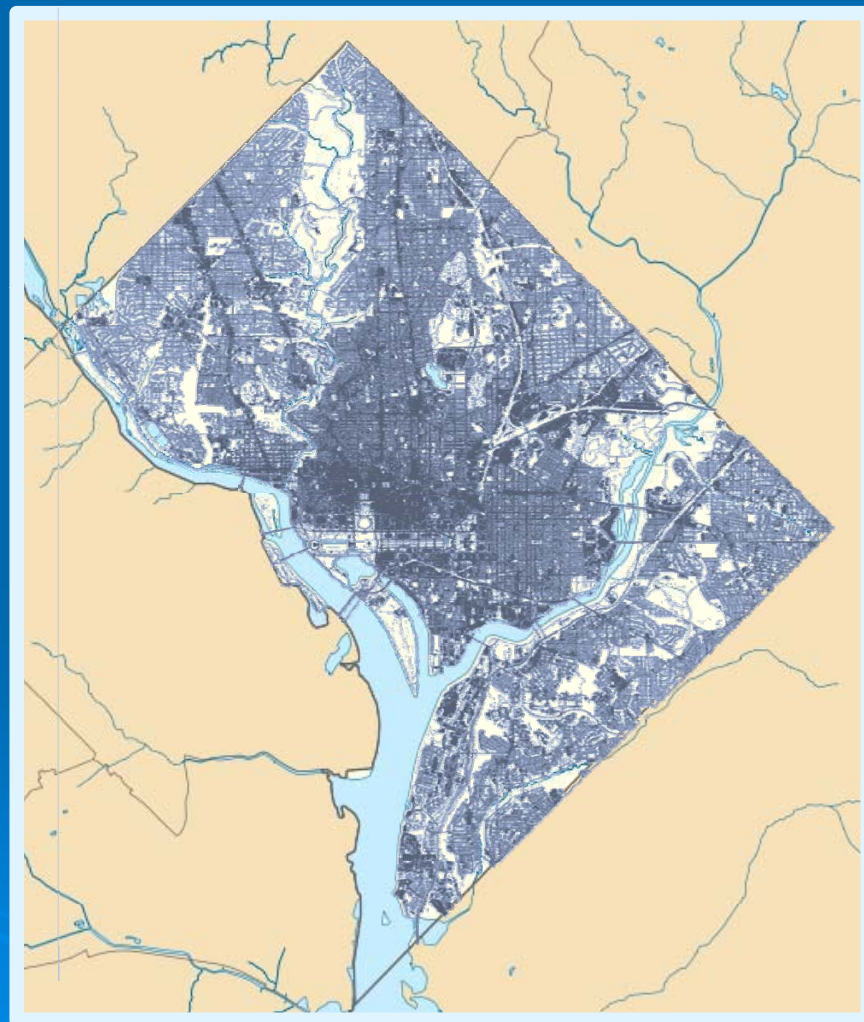


...basketball courts, parking lots, and other
“impervious surfaces.”



Did you know?

- 43% of the District's land area is impervious.
- A single 1.2 inch storm falling on this area produces about 525 million gallons of stormwater runoff.



This stormwater runoff

Washes trash, sediment, oil, grease, pet waste, and other pollutants into District sewers and waterbodies...



...and its sheer volume erodes stream channels, toppling trees, washing sediment downstream, and severely degrading aquatic habitat.



Reducing stormwater runoff

Is essential in order to restore full and safe use of District waterbodies to its residents and visitors, as required under the federal Clean Water Act.



Stormwater retention

Reduces stormwater runoff by mimicking a meadow, where rainwater is captured by plants and soaks into the soil. Green roofs, rain gardens, and pervious pavers are examples of retention practices.



DDOE's proposed retention standards

Will require large construction projects to install and maintain practices to meet stormwater retention performance standards...



...and these retention standards will gradually transform the District's impervious areas into a more river-friendly landscape, helping to make District waterbodies more usable and attractive for residents, businesses, and visitors.

More information available at:

ddoe.dc.gov/proposedstormwaterrule

