

Why is Stormwater Pollution a problem we should be concerned about?

The replacement of vegetation with concrete and asphalt reduced the ability of the land to cleanse or remove pollutants from the water as it travels through the areas that drain to our lakes. Without the benefit of treatment that comes with the natural sheetflow of water over native soils and vegetation, the pollutants contained in the stormwater runoff are discharged into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and underground aquifer. Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution that can harm aquatic life and even contaminate the groundwater drinking supply. Depending on the type of pollutant and the land use, pollutant concentrations in the runoff from developed areas are often 10 to 100 (or more) times higher than runoff from undeveloped land. Stormwater runoff is now considered the greatest source of pollutant loading to Florida's lakes, rivers and estuaries.