

What problems are caused by stormwater pollution?

1. **Pollution** - As stormwater runs-off of 'impervious' surfaces (e.g. building/house rooftops, streets, parking lots, and driveways) it picks up contaminants and debris such as oil, grease, fertilizers, pesticides, litter, leaves and grass clippings. This stormwater runs through the miles of ditches and underground pipes that all lead to our lakes, streams and wetlands. There it deposits the pollution that eventually will make its way to the underground aquifer, where our drinking water comes from. We need better pollution control and stormwater treatment to reduce this contamination.

2. **Runoff** - Heavy rains cause flooding in some areas of Lakeland. The combination of flat terrain and limited natural or man-made stormwater drainage systems results in flooded streets, yards, and occasionally a home or business. The City has worked hard to solve this problem, but there are areas yet to be addressed.

3. **What types of Projects are planned?** - The Stormwater Utility provides the funding necessary for a long-term commitment to improving water quality in Lakeland's lakes. A 20-year comprehensive lake management plan was completed in 1996. The planning document identified a program for maintaining our stormwater infrastructure, providing for stormwater treatment and restoring our lakes.