

What Benefits Will I See?

The City will increase efforts regarding the maintenance of drainage systems in problematic areas of Duluth to ensure the systems flow unobstructed and operate properly. Future capital projects are planned to address drainage issues on Bridlewood Drive, Brookshire Way, Kenwood Drive, and Swilling Creek. Future projects in other areas of the City will be added as they are identified and prioritized. The planned construction efforts combined with enhanced drainage system maintenance will result in:

- Improved drainage system operation
- Reduced flooding
- Cleaner water in our streams and creeks

What Can I Do to Help Protect Our Water Resources?



There are many things that we can all do on a daily basis to protect our water resources. One of the most important things you can do to protect our local water resources

is don't allow anything to flow down a storm drain that you wouldn't swim or fish in.

Stopping pollution at its source reduces the burden on the City's stormwater management program and ensures that our precious local resources are preserved for generations to come.

Who Do I Call for More Information?

For more information about the City of Duluth Stormwater Management Program, please contact Tim Lawrence at 770.497.5297.

Also, visit our website at www.duluthga.net

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City of Duluth STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Water Resources for Our Future

Overview

Management of stormwater runoff has become an increasingly important responsibility of local governments. Recently expanded stormwater regulations, combined with aging drainage infrastructure, have resulted in local governments like Duluth developing and implementing more comprehensive stormwater management programs.

Over time, stormwater structures such as pipes and catch basins have become clogged and deteriorated, reducing their efficiency. The City must clean drainage system components; replace aging culverts and drainage structures; and construct new drainage systems to maintain or improve stormwater capacity. To solve these problems and comply with new regulations, the City of Duluth needs to implement a more comprehensive stormwater management program.

What Is Stormwater Runoff?



Stormwater runoff is the water that flows over rooftops, sidewalks, parking lots, streets, driveways, yards, patios and other surfaces when it rains. The water then flows into gutters, storm sewers and drainage ditches that empty into our local creeks and streams.

Development replaces natural ground surfaces with impervious surfaces, causing more stormwater to run off the land rather than soaking into the soil, resulting in increased stream flows and velocities. Impervious areas (the areas that cannot absorb rainfall – rooftops, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, etc.) are the single most important factor influencing stormwater runoff. Impervious areas and intensive land uses can also promote a build up of pollution that is eventually carried into our rivers via stormwater runoff.

New Stormwater Regulations

Expanded regulations have recently been established by the state and federal government to address stormwater runoff and water quality issues. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regulates the discharge of

pollutants in stormwater through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The City of Duluth must comply with this NPDES stormwater permit, which mandates certain activities be implemented to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollution to local streams, creeks and lakes. These activities include inspection of industrial and commercial facilities, regulating development, water quality monitoring, and maintenance of the stormwater drainage system.

Has Duluth Formulated a Plan to Address Stormwater Issues?

Yes, a comprehensive stormwater program strategy was prepared to meet new regulatory requirements and improve the highest priority needs first. Duluth's plan addresses stormwater issues through engineering studies, drainage improvement projects, remedial repairs and increased system maintenance.



Paying for Stormwater Services

To fund a more comprehensive stormwater management program, the City must seek additional resources.

Based on the storm water plan, the City estimates that the annual expenditure for the stormwater management program must be increased to approximately \$750,000 to build new stormwater facilities, improve maintenance of existing systems, and provide an enhanced level of service focused on minimizing flooding and reducing water pollution. These additional funds also implement regulatory compliance activities in accordance with Georgia EPD requirements.

The City is considering formation of a Stormwater Utility to more effectively fund the stormwater management program through a system of user fees that will be dedicated solely to addressing stormwater management and drainage issues.

