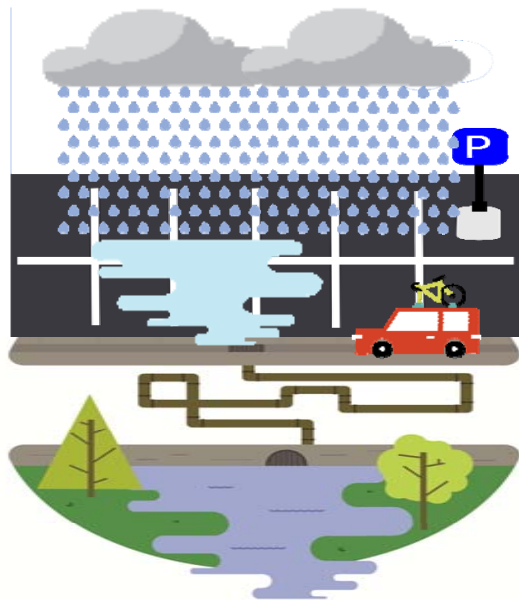


DID YOU KNOW???

A quarter inch of rain falling on just one acre of an impervious surface such as a parking lot or rooftop generates over 5,500 gallons of runoff!

Both the amount and quality of runoff from rooftops, parking lots and turf areas directly affect the health of nearby creeks, rivers and Lake Erie. As the owner or manager of a commercial property, you have a unique opportunity to improve our local waterways by adopting just a few simple practices.



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What's Your Runoff Footprint?



Reducing the Stormwater Impacts of Commercial Properties



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conservation district

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Reducing Your Runoff Footprint - Commercial Properties

Stormwater impacts range from flooding and erosion to poor water quality and reduced populations of fish, frogs and other creatures that rely on clean water. It can even affect the health of people who fish, boat or play in our local creeks, rivers and Lake Erie. Be sure to check out the Cuyahoga SWCD Stormwater Education Page for more info and ideas: cuyahogawcd.org/programs/stormwater-education. Cuyahoga SWCD staff are available to assist you with site-specific issues - just give us a call at 216-524-6580.



Rooftops and Parking Lots

- Direct rainwater from rooftops and downspouts away from parking lots and storm drains and into grassy areas, rain gardens or vegetated swales.
- Install dense native vegetation or tall grasses to create vegetated filter strips adjacent to areas of a parking lot where water runs off.
- Sweep the parking lot regularly to keep grit and other fine sediment out of the runoff.
- When it comes time to repave your parking lot, consider installing permeable pavers, bioretention cells, or other stormwater control measures.
- Reduce salt applications whenever and wherever possible. Salt has a major impact on freshwater organisms and doesn't filter out of the water and soil.



Turf and Landscaped Areas

- Stop fertilizing within 25 feet of yard drains, catch basins, drainage swales and any creeks or wetlands. Nutrients from fertilizers are a major pollutant in our waterways and can contribute to toxic algae blooms.
- Plant trees anywhere you can. They have multiple benefits for the quality of our soil, water and air - and they improve public health and property values.
- Convert large areas of turf grass to prairies - you'll reduce your mowing costs substantially while improving water quality.
- Even small areas of turf can be converted to rain gardens or native pollinator gardens - think tough-to-mow corners and fencerows.
- Leave a No-Mow Zone next to creeks and ponds. The enhanced vegetation will promote infiltration of runoff and filter pollutants.