



STORMWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Boise and Garden City Area

The Partners for Clean Water is responsible for monitoring stormwater in the Boise and Garden City area, a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The Partners for Clean Water has been collecting urban stormwater data since 1999.

UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER

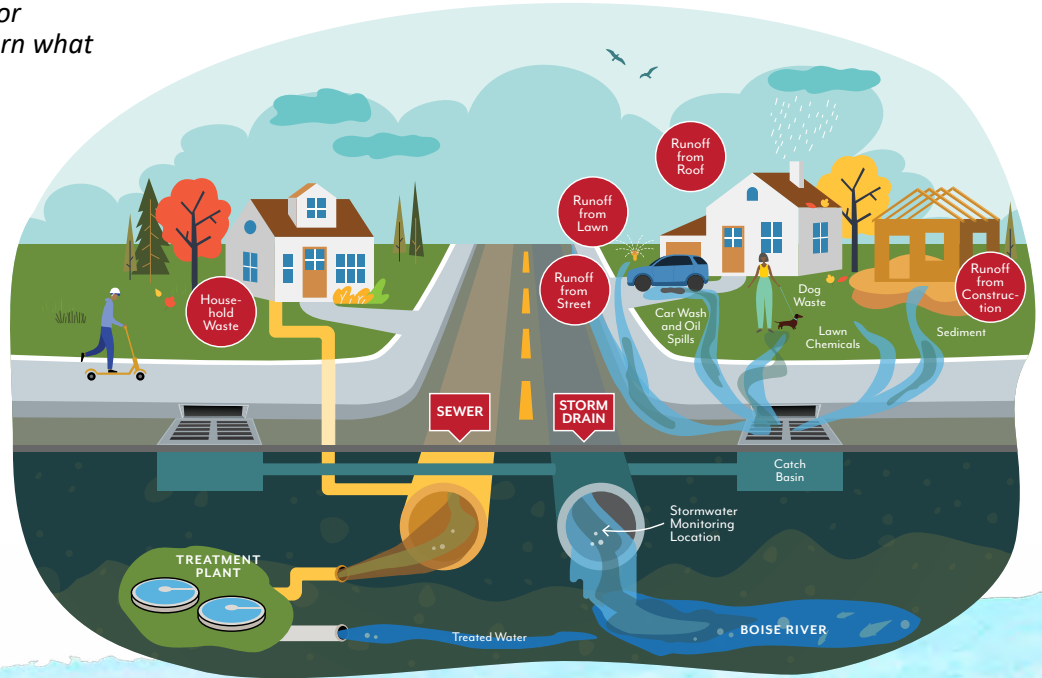
In order to understand why we monitor stormwater, it is important to first learn what stormwater is and where it goes.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is rain or melting snow that does not infiltrate into the ground.

As stormwater travels across lawns, parking lots, gardens, roofs, and roadways, it can pick up pollution like trash, gasoline, motor oil, fertilizer, pesticides, and bacteria from pet waste.

The polluted water, or stormwater runoff, can enter a storm drain, flow untreated to the Boise River, and negatively impact the river's condition.

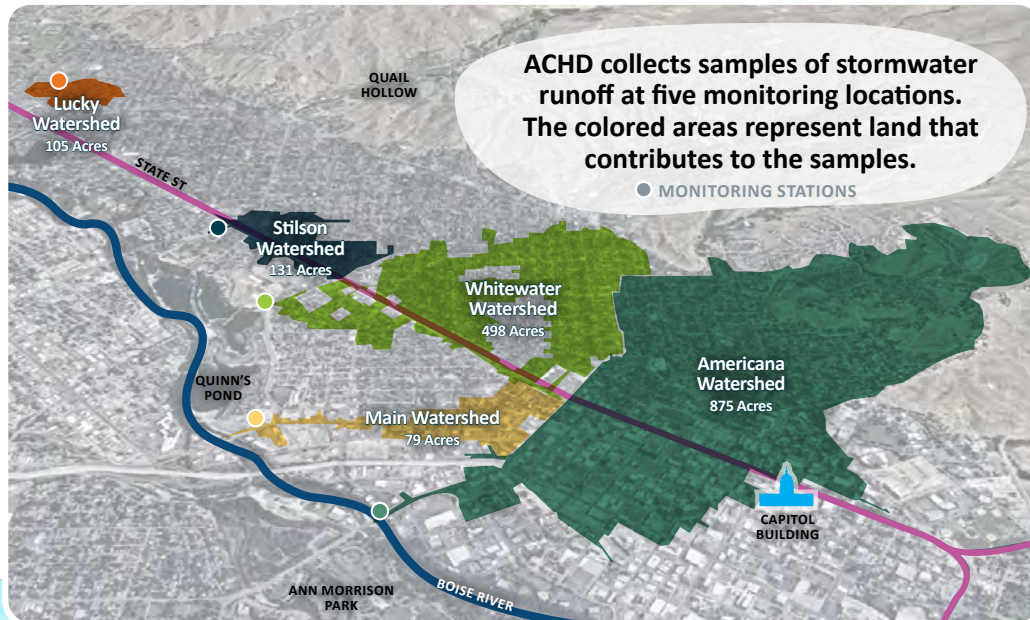


WHERE DOES OUR STORMWATER GO?

Most often, stormwater runoff from rooftops, yards, sidewalks, and streets flow into underground pipes through grates in the roadway.

The storm drain system is separate from the sanitary sewer system and DOES NOT get "cleaned" at a treatment plant before discharging to surface waters.

MONITORING STORMWATER



ACHD collects samples of stormwater runoff at five monitoring locations. The colored areas represent land that contributes to the samples.



WHY DO WE MONITOR STORMWATER RUNOFF?

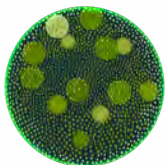
We collect flow, rain, and stormwater runoff water quality data from representative areas of the city to meet permit requirements and understand the levels of pollutants discharged to the Boise River. The data collected helps inform management decisions aimed to reduce pollution.



HOW MUCH WATER IS PRODUCED IN A STORM?

If the stormwater from our five monitored watersheds were to drain to the Boise State Broncos football field after a 1/4 inch rainstorm in Boise, there would be more than four feet of water covering the field!

WHAT IS IN OUR STORMWATER?



NUTRIENTS

Nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen are picked up by stormwater from lawns and street gutters. Leaf litter and lawn clippings account for most of the phosphorus in our stormwater, while pet waste and fertilizer are the main sources of nitrogen.



SEDIMENT

Stormwater can transport sediment from construction areas, yards, and roadways into the Boise River. Water that is polluted with sediment becomes murky and turbid, blocking sunlight to aquatic plants and clogging gravel beds used for fish spawning.



BACTERIA

Bacteria such as E. coli pose a health risk to the community and the Boise River. Typically, these bacteria levels are higher during the summer, which can be unhealthy for recreation in the Boise River. The source of bacteria in urban stormwater is usually animal waste including dogs, cats, and waterfowl.

WHICH POLLUTANTS ARE THE MOST CONCERNING?

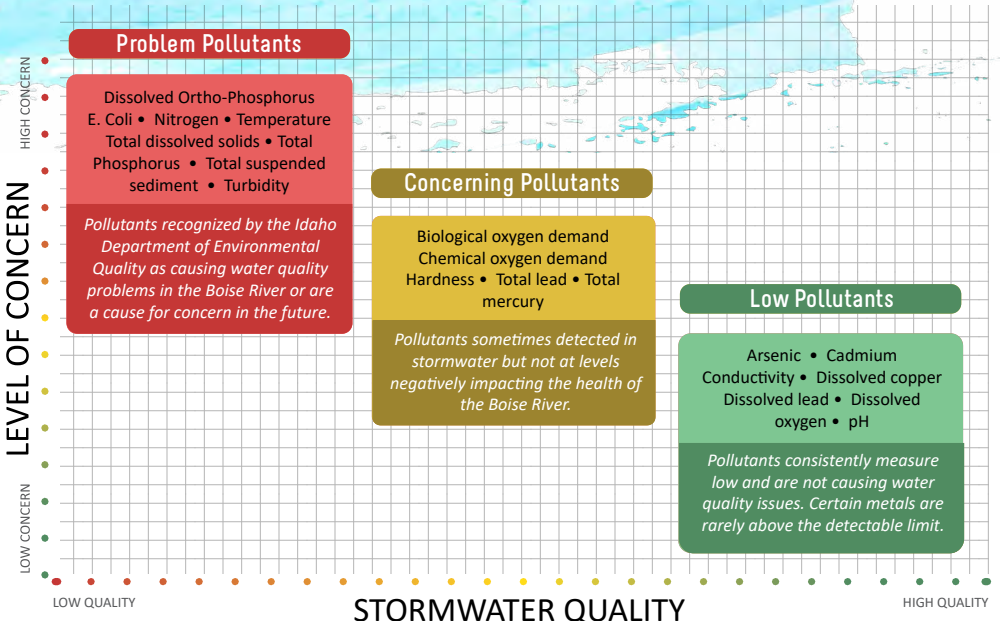


WHY DO WE CARE?

As our community grows, so do the sources of pollution and potential for causing water quality problems in the Boise River.

Monitoring water quality in the storm drain system helps us understand the types, amounts, and sources of pollution in our stormwater runoff.

This information helps us focus pollution prevention and treatment efforts.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- Pick up lawn clippings and leaves from your lawn
- Unclog residential storm drains that become blocked
- Always pick up pet waste
- Follow directions for fertilizer use
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways of sediment
- Prevent car wash wastewater from entering the street or go to a car wash

LEARN MORE

ACHD ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT 208.387.6250 | TTY 1.800.377.3529

PARTNERS FOR CLEAN WATER WWW.PARTNERSFORCLEANWATER.ORG

[NPDES PHASE I ANNUAL STORMWATER MONITORING REPORTS](#)