

## How You Can Help

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There are many ways to control pollution. Consider the following:

- Limit the use of fertilizers and salts; sweep up excess material before it becomes stormwater runoff.
- Pick up pet waste; ensure septic tanks are functioning properly.
- Leave a buffer that doesn't get mowed along stream banks to help filter pollutants.
- Compost yard waste or take advantage of yard waste pick-up services; never dump grass clippings or leaves into storm drains.
- Check vehicles for leaks; properly dispose of household chemicals.



Oil leaking into storm drain

## Get Involved

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- Participate in watershed clean-ups.
- Participate in household hazardous waste drop-off days. Visit [DKMM.org](http://DKMM.org) for more information.
- Contact Public Utilities when illegal dumping is spotted in storm drains or streams (740) 203-1900.

## City Efforts

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The City of Delaware Public Utilities Department works diligently to prevent both point source and nonpoint source pollution year-round through:

- Waterway clean-ups
- Storm sewer outfall inspections
- Public education and outreach
- River and stream monitoring efforts.

Thanks to grant funding from the Ohio EPA in 2019, the City has been able to further its efforts and begin monitoring the Delaware Run for bacteria.



The production and printing of this brochure was funded by the City of Delaware's MS4 Program and the Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

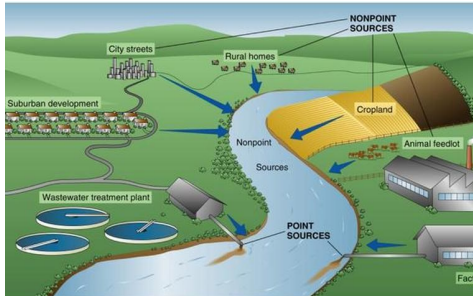


# Water Pollution and its Source

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City of Delaware  
Public Utilities  
Department





## Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is pollution resulting from multiple sources such as land runoff, precipitation, seepage, and drainage that is dispersed over a large area.

NPS pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt moves over or through the ground, picking up and carrying pollutants away and ultimately depositing them into rivers, lakes, wetlands, and ground waters.

NPS pollution can be compared to point source pollution. As the name implies, point source pollutants are discharged from a specific and known location, such as a pipe. In some instances, flows from pipes can still be nonpoint source pollution if multiple surface drains and ditches feed into one outlet.

## Why it Matters

Per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in many states, NPS pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems. When pollutants are discharged over a large, untraceable area, both ground and surface waters can be negatively impacted.

When NPS pollution, both natural and man-made, enters into waterways it can have harmful impacts on drinking water supplies, recreation, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems as a whole.

At the local level, the City of Delaware's drinking water is sourced from the Olen tangy River and from groundwater wells. Keeping both surface water, like the Olen tangy River, and groundwater free of pollutants is in the best interest of the environment and public health.



City of Delaware Water Treatment Plant

## Examples of NPS Pollutants

Nonpoint source pollution can come from multiple land uses. Examples of NPS pollution include:

- Bacteria and nutrients from faulty septic systems and pet waste
- Oil and gas from vehicles
- Road salts
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites and stream-bank erosion
- Excess fertilizers and nutrients from lawns

NPS pollution from agricultural lands include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides
- Sediment from crop land
- Livestock bacteria and nutrients



Stream pollution with unknown source