

What are the effects of polluted stormwater?

- Sediments can cloud water, affecting plants, fish, and other aquatic life;
- Sediments can form deltas, impeding navigation and lake access, and providing ideal habitat for invasive species;
- Excess nutrients can cause increases in algal growth, including Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Bacteria and pathogens can make water unsafe for drinking and swimming;
- Debris – such as plastic bags – can suffocate or disable aquatic life such as ducks or turtles;
- Household hazardous wastes such as pesticides, paints, or motor oil can poison aquatic life;

All of these effects:

- Lead to a loss in water quality;
- Increase the cost to treat our water to make it safe for drinking;
- Hurt the economy by impacting tourism and property values.