

LOOK INSIDE A WATERSHED... IT'S ALL CONNECTED!

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF CATCH BASINS and other stormwater rehabilitation units ensures they are functioning properly and will help minimize contamination entering or leaving our watersheds.

GREEN ROOFS reduce rainwater runoff, filter out pollutants, provide habitat for birds and insects, reduce the urban heat island effect and insulate buildings.

GRASS PARKING LOTS are one type of pervious parking surface being used by several businesses in the CRD to manage rainwater onsite and reduce contaminants leaving their properties.

When performing **AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE** it is important to ensure hazardous materials are stored properly and fluids are safely disposed of at designated facilities. Remember to never dump wastes down catch basins and keep materials on hand to clean up spills.

REPORT ALL SPILLS to Emergency Management BC at: 1.800.663.3456.

MARINE PUMP-OUT FACILITIES enable boaters to dispose of waste properly without discharging to the marine environment.



Look Inside a Watershed... It's All Connected!

CRD | Integrated Watershed Management

A watershed is an area of land that drains precipitation and groundwater to a common point, such as a creek, wetland, lake or ocean. A healthy watershed functions to slow, clean and store water, by allowing the water to absorb into the landscape.

The flow of water is changed by the clearing of land and development such as roads, driveways, parking lots and buildings. Precipitation, hose and irrigation water that falls on these surfaces wash pollution, soil and litter into stormdrains leading directly to our creeks, harbours or ocean, without the benefits provided by a healthy watershed.

We all live in a watershed whether natural, rural or urban, and our daily actions and activities can impact our watershed. There are a number of things we can each do to protect our watersheds. Look inside to see how we can all be watershed wise.

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SEPTIC TANKS/FIELDS must be regularly inspected and maintained on to ensure they continue to function properly. Check to ensure you are complying with local bylaws.

COVER MANURE PILES to ensure manure does not enter watercourses. **NOSE PUMPS** allow livestock to drink from watercourses without eroding streambanks.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, if not managed properly, can have a negative impact on water quality. Silt fences and other erosion and sediment control measures can help minimize these impacts.

GREENWAY AMENITIES provide enjoyable places for people while creating wildlife habitat and corridors. **PERVIOUS TRAILS** set well back from the top of the stream bank help minimize erosion.

PERVIOUS PAVEMENT helps reduce runoff by allowing rainwater to slowly drain into the underlying soil to mimic natural water flows.

RAIN WATER HARVESTING can help decrease the amount of runoff from roofs. The collected water can be used for irrigation and/or groundwater recharge.

WETLANDS, LAKES and PONDS help to slow the water down, reducing high flows and erosion of downstream watercourses while providing important wildlife habitat.

STREAMSIDE VEGETATION protects stream banks from erosion, keeps the water cool and provides habitat for fish, birds, insects and other wildlife.

Avoiding the use of **PESTICIDES** and using natural gardening practices will help ensure rainwater is not contaminated with potentially harmful chemicals.

PAINTED YELLOW FISH markings on storm drains let people know that a catch basin drains into fish bearing habitat (i.e., creeks, rivers, lakes, ocean).

CRD performs **REGULAR MONITORING** of stormwater discharges and marine surface water which helps identify whether contaminants are present, if source investigations are required and to track changes in water quality.

RESTORING SHORELINES to a more natural state helps to stabilize the shore and provides better habitat for marine species.

WASHING VEHICLES on lawns or at a commercial car wash will help reduce runoff and the amount of contaminants entering stormwater flows.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS improve our watersheds by removing garbage and debris from our creeks and marine waters.

EELGRASS & UNDERWATER VEGETATION, which provide important habitat for many marine species, can be negatively impacted by poor water quality.

