

EFFECTS OF STORMWATER POLLUTION

Storm water pollution may affect your health:

Kearney's water supply field is located on the Platte River. Our main source of drinking water comes from ground water recharge surrounding the Platte River. The larger the amounts of polluted storm water going into them, the higher the risk of contamination to our water supply. For drinking water, filtering out pollutants and contaminants increases treatment costs, so we all pay higher water bills or our water is not as clean. When reservoirs fill up with sediment, reservoir capacity is reduced because they are full of silt, not water.

Bacteria and toxins can enter your body through water activities, such as swimming, especially just after rain. Polluted runoff can damage streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms and fish kills, muddy water keeps fish from feeding and breeding, and excess bacteria can harm both wildlife and people.



If pollutants reach high levels, the water can be unsuitable or even dangerous for humans and animals. Pollution can cause conditions unsafe for swimming and even recreational use that does not involve direct contact with the water, such as boating and fishing.

Storm water pollution affects the environment when:

- Toxic substances, such as vehicle wastes, pesticides and paint pollute streams and waterways.
- Toxic waterways are unsafe for swimming and drinking and affect aquatic life.
- Plant material, sewage, and some chemicals starve water of oxygen, choking aquatic and marine life.
- Heavy metals from storm water accumulate in the tissue of fish and seafood and cause poisoning.
- Large amounts of unsightly litter from storm water will end up in waterways destroying their beauty.
- Bacteria and viruses from untreated human and animal wastes are allowed to drain into natural waterways, making them unsafe for swimming and drinking.

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