



# Long Branch Green Team & Environmental Commission



## Spotlight Topic: Where Does Our Stormwater Go?

Did you know that stormwater runoff is described as the water that runs down your driveway or flows off your yard because there is too much for the soil to absorb?

All that stormwater runoff from driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops in your neighborhood flows to storm drains that go directly into our local bodies of water, bringing pollutants with them. Per the US EPA, polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water in the U.S.



How can you help at your own home?

Look at the picture above. A house with a **2,800 square foot roof** in a rainstorm that drops **1 inch of rain** will generate **1,680 gallons of water**. Now go outside and see where the drainpipe by your driveway goes. If your drainpipes go into your driveway you can do a simple thing: **Simple Disconnection**. This is the easiest and least costly method to reduce stormwater runoff. Instead of piping rooftop runoff to the street where it enters the storm drain and is piped to the ocean or our streams, the rooftop runoff is released onto a grassy area to allow the water to be filtered by the grass and soak into the ground. A healthy lawn typically can absorb the first one to two inches of stormwater runoff from a rooftop.

Take a look outside and see if you can direct a downspout away from the street.

Next month we will talk about another way to help with the flooding in town: rain gardens.