

Campus Stormwater Assessment

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Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Objectives:

- Record the patterns of stormwater runoff on your campus.
- Identify problems, such as erosion, bare lawn, trash sources, areas when stormwater pools or floods.
- List 2 or 3 possible locations for a Student Stormwater Action Project.



Materials for Each Team

- Map of the school (from the computer or drawn).
- Paper to sketch on
- Directions and the map key
- Pencils or colored pens
- Clip board or hard writing surface
- Container of water
- Camera (optional)



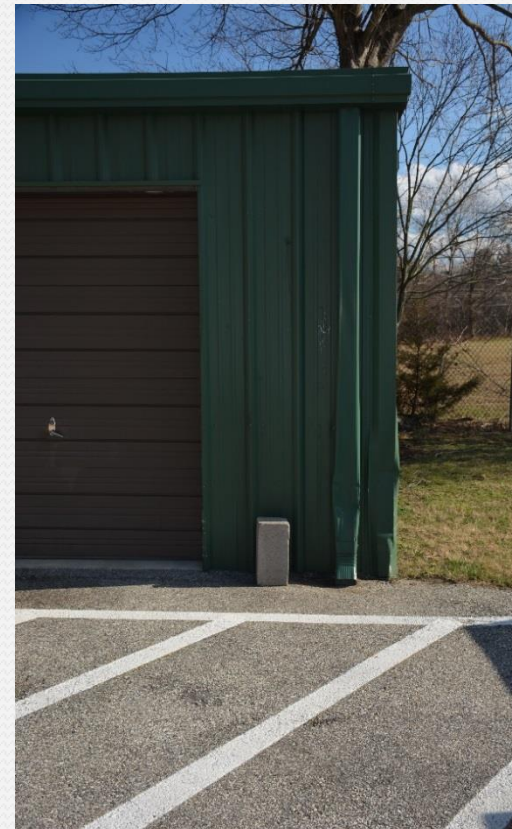
Ways to Observe Stormwater Runoff Paths

- Watch the stormwater while it's raining.
- Look for flattened grassy areas and puddles.
- Observe the gutters along roads and parking lots.
- Look for the slope of an area.



Find and Note the Locations of Stormwater Downspouts

Also mark where the water from the spout goes.



Bare Lawn Could Mean Erosion

Note areas on your map where:

- The lawn is bare
- Dirt has washed away
- Dirt has collected.

Can you see where the dirt goes when it rains?

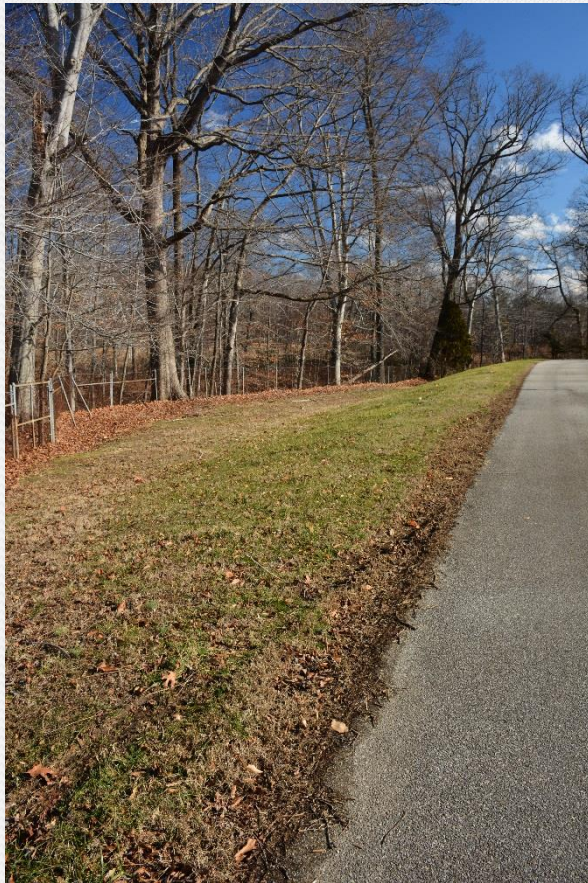


Mark Stormwater Drain Locations

Put arrows
on map
showing
stormwater
flow to
drains.



Example of Slope toward Stream



And
Stormwater
Outlet



What these photo don't show are the eroded stream banks and stream bottom where stormwater enters this stream.

Note Trash and Its Sources



Example of Area with Runoff & Opportunity

Problem: The front lawn of this school slopes to a road-side drainage ditch, which leads to the stream across the road.



How could stormwater runoff be reduced here?

Another Opportunity For An Action Project

Problem:

Stormwater runoff flows towards the wet baseball field and the stream (on the other side of the woods).

Opportunity: This is a natural gathering place. Trees could add shade and reduce stormwater runoff.



Compile Your Observations and Suggestions



From your observations, pick several possible places on your campus where a Student Stormwater Action Project could reduce stormwater pollution.