

Stormwater Word Search

The U.S. Congress passed the Clean Water Act, in 1972, to clean up the aquatic **environment** by controlling **pollution** from industries and sewage treatment plants.

However, **nonpoint source** pollution remains the nation's largest source of **water** quality problems. When rain and snow melts, and when people pour things into the storm drain, the water picks up oils, metals and chemicals, and deposits them into the waterway. Common pollutants include **sediments, nutrients, pesticides**, pathogens, salts, oils, and excess **fertilizer**.

Our lakes, streams and ponds are all part of the **watershed** in our region. It's important to look at all of the sources of water we have as well as all the potential sources of pollution that drain into it. Water **conservation** helps us to understand what we need to do to save our sources of water and improve the quality of the water that we use every day. Water conservation also mean reducing the demand on existing water supplies and limiting the amount of polluted water that runs off the land.

Water **Runoff** from homes, businesses and farms can be reduced by using **low impact** development (LID) techniques. Low impact development solutions include **rain gardens** and green roofs, which treat rainwater as a precious resource. Other ways to control polluted runoff include **erosion** control techniques such as silt fencing around construction sites, establishment of **riparian** (vegetated) zones next to waterbodies to filter out pollutants, and **xeriscape** landscaping, which incorporates native plants that minimize maintenance needs.

Finally, many local groups organize volunteer **monitoring** efforts, which provide information that can help government agencies understand the impacts of nonpoint source pollution and solve problems. Working together, we can all make a difference.

Can You Find These Words? (Circle each one)

Nonpoint Source
Runoff
Watershed
Monitoring
Conservation
Environment
Water
Pollution
Low Impact

Rain Gardens
Nutrients
Sediment
Pesticide
Fertilizer
Xeriscape
Riparian
Erosion

