

Regional Science Consortium

Storm Drain Survey

Background

Stormwater runoff flows across impervious surfaces collecting objects and chemicals from its surroundings. These items find their way to storm drains which help filter out large objects and prevent contamination of natural water systems.

Objective

Students will apply their knowledge of stormwater runoff through the hands-on experience of monitoring a nearby storm drain.

Instructions

1. Locate a storm drain that you can easily visit once per week. Develop an informative name for its location.
 - a. Ex: Corner of W 9th & State by maple tree.
2. For each survey you conduct, bring the following items to your storm drain.
 - a. Sturdy trash bag
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Data sheet
 - d. Pencil
 - e. Clipboard
3. Begin your survey by recording the date, time, and current weather conditions.
4. While wearing gloves, start removing individual items from the storm drain, recording them on your data sheet, and placing them in the trash bag. Continue this process until all items have been removed from the storm drain.
5. After you have finished cleaning the storm drain answer the questions below your data table. You have now finished your first storm drain survey!
6. Continue to survey your storm drain once a week for 4 weeks. We recommend surveying on the same day each week.
7. After you have finished all four surveys, complete the analysis of results.