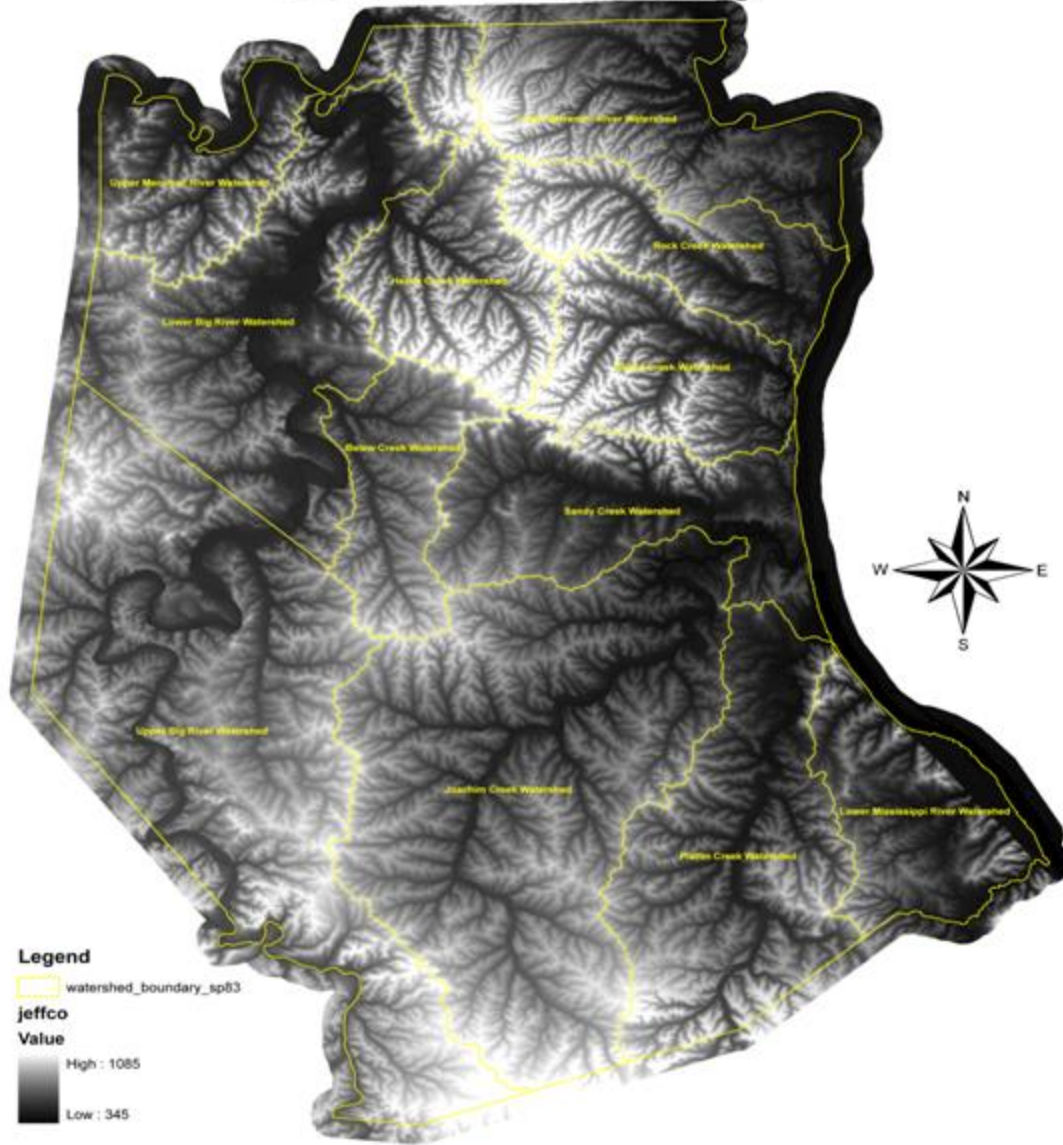


Homeowner's Guide To Protecting Your Watershed

Exploring Ways to Keep
Your Water Healthy

Jefferson County



We
All Live
In A
Watershed



Stormwater Management

- Stormwater is managed by practices that temporarily store runoff and remove pollutants.

Types:

- Detention Ponds
- Wetlands
- Infiltration
- Filtration
- Open Channels



Storm Sewer, Sanitary Sewer, Septic System

What's The Difference?

A Storm Sewer or Inlet receives stormwater runoff and routes it *untreated* into a stream or lake.

A Sanitary Sewer is an enclosed system that carries household waste water to the water treatment plant where pollutants are removed and water is “cleaned”.

A Septic System releases household waste water to underground layers where it is filtered before it enters a stream.

Maintaining Stormwater Design

Drainage
flow to
culvert
blocked by
added
gravel.



Maintaining Stormwater Design



Natural
drainage area
and outflow
blocked by
weeds and
shrubs.

Maintaining Stormwater Design

Runoff directed by a swale is blocked by rocks.



Maintaining Stormwater Design



Rocks block stormwater runoff path causing standing water and property damage.

Maintaining Stormwater Design

Step 1: Street
Inlets

Damaged
stormwater
street inlet.



Maintaining Stormwater Design



Step 2:
Stormwater Inlet

Blocked
stormwater inlet
leads to detention
pond. Detention
pond leads to
outflow.

Maintaining Stormwater Design

Step 3: Outflow
to natural
drainage

Outflow blocked
by debris and
sediment.



Failing Septic System



Septic waste infiltrates into ground water and runs into the nearest stream or lake.



Stormwater Pollution Control

Anything that enters a storm drain goes untreated into the same water bodies that we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water. AND that's not healthy for people, plants, animals, or our delicate ecosystem.

As pollutants get washed into our water supply, so do the potential hazards for all forms of life.



Storm drains are designed to handle storm water.

Stormwater carrying pollutants flows untreated into a stream or lake.



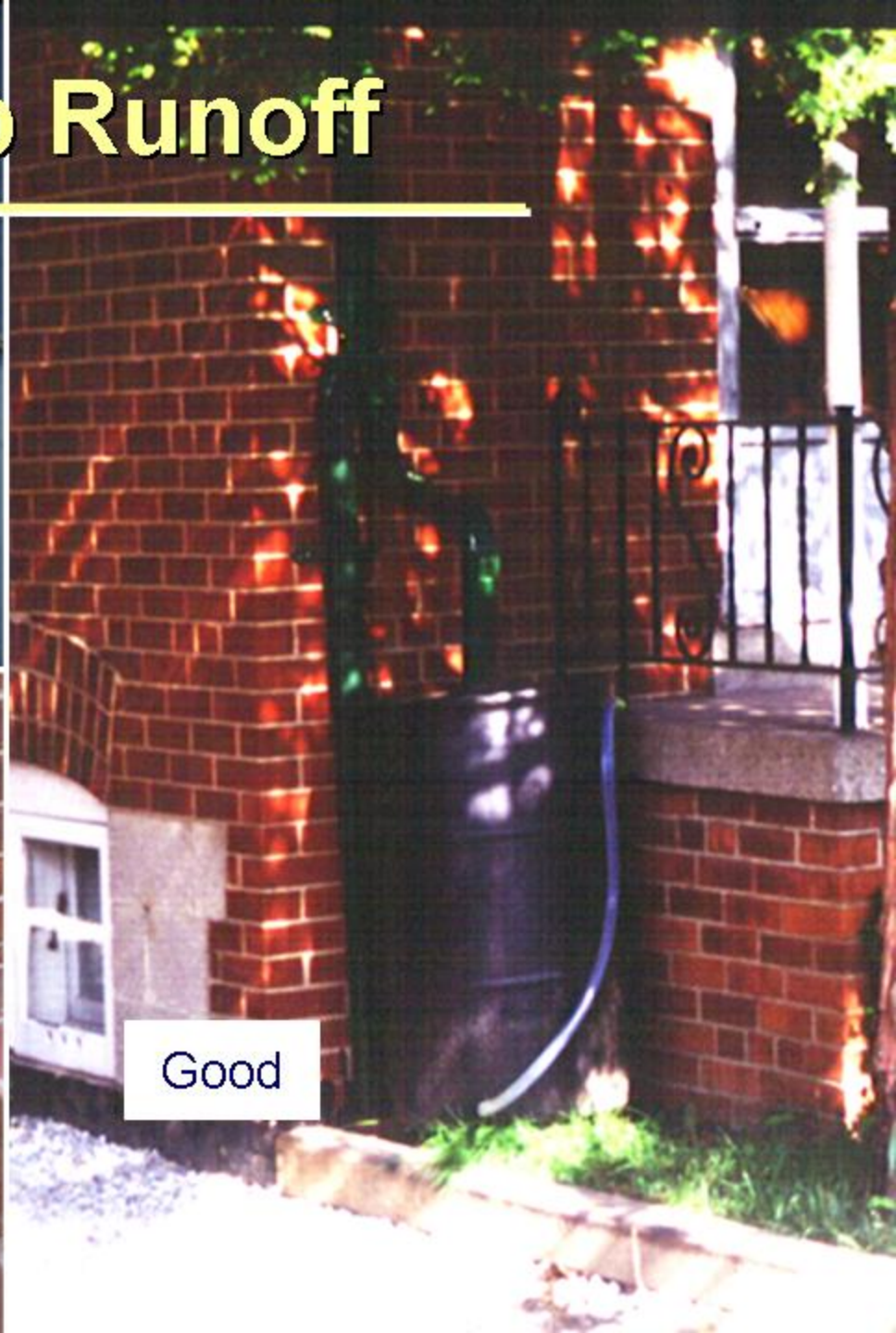
Rooftop Runoff



Bad



Good.



Good

Rain Gardens - Stormwater Management Alternative



↑
Shrub
Garden



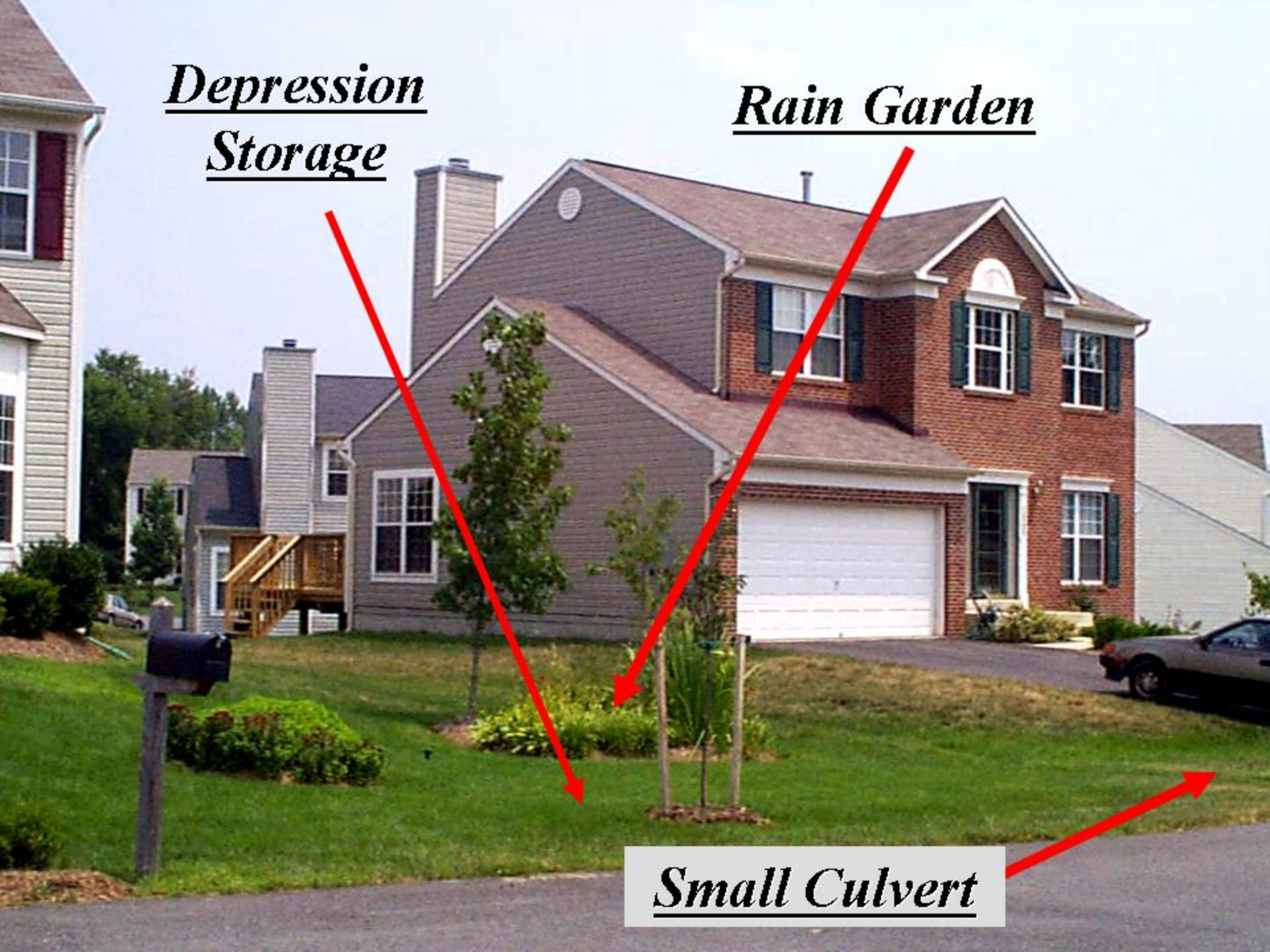
↑
Shady
Garden



↗
Prairie
Garden

Depression
Storage

Rain Garden



Small Culvert

Homeowners Unite For Pollution Control



Lawn and Garden Pollution Control

- Promote demonstration lawn & garden programs
- Offer assistance in yard waste composting
- Offer tree planting assistance
- Promote backyard habitat gardens
- Provide regular yard waste pickup
- Provide fall leaf pickup
- Promote soil tests before fertilizing

Recycling and Runoff Pollution Control

- Distribute directories for recycling centers
- Provide list of safe car washing products
- Provide information on proper disposal of hazardous waste products
- Offer technical assistance to route gutter runoff to gardens or landscaped areas
- Offer homeowner pollution practice recognition

The Dozen That Makes A Difference



Give your watershed a helping hand . . .

1. Water Only When It's Needed

- Excessive watering causes runoff and runoff picks up pollutants.
- Runoff from excessive watering can cause erosion and sediment to be washed into streams and storm drains.



2. Limit the Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers

- Consider using organic fertilizers.
- Have your soil tested to see if fertilizer is really necessary.
- Use pesticides sparingly or not at all.
- Put empty containers in the trash. Do not pour residue down the sink or storm drain.



3. Plant Native Vegetation



- Landscaping your yard increases water absorption and slows down runoff.
- Vegetation creates a backyard habitat for wildlife and removes pollutants.

4. Compost or Mulch Yard Waste

- Compost or mulch yard waste so it stays out of storm drain systems.
- Do not rake or blow yard waste into storm drains.
- Do not dump yard waste on the stream bank, or in streams.



5. Dispose of Sweepings in the Trash



- Sweep regularly and dispose of driveway and sidewalk sweepings in the trash.
- Avoid hosing and leaf blowing that directs dirt and organic matter into the street or storm drain system.

6. Redirect Rooftop Runoff



- Rain barrels help control runoff.
- Collect rooftop runoff in rain barrels. Use the collected water for gardens, etc.
- Establish a rain garden to help infiltrate gutter runoff.

7. Dispose of Pet Waste Properly

- Pick up pet waste and cat litter and throw in the trash can.
- Fecal bacteria from pet waste is frequently found in streams and lakes.



8. Carefully Choose Where To Wash Your Car

- Wash cars on a grassy area.
- Use phosphorus-free and non-toxic cleaning products.
- OR use a car wash that treats or recycles wash water.



9. Properly Maintain Your Vehicles

- Have car fluids changed where recycling practices are in place.
- Carefully dispose of oil, antifreeze, etc., at approved recycling facilities.



10. Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly



- Paints, stains, solvents, oil, pesticides, cleaning products should be disposed of according to label directions.
- Rinse paint brushes, power equipment fuel so waste does not enter the street or storm water drain.

11. Properly Maintain Your Septic System



- Inspect your septic system every two years and make repairs as needed.
- A leaking septic system can leak into your ground water.
- Prevent disposal of household chemicals through the leach field.

12. Join A Watershed Organization



Learn more about
your watershed and
its unique qualities.



Be involved in the future
of your environment.

Clean waterways . . .



- provide a healthy water source for wildlife,
- improve recreational opportunities,
- improve our drinking water,
- enhance our property value.



High Sierra Subdivision









