

What is Stormwater?







Long ago in the place we now call Highland Park, most rainfall sank directly into the ground where it fell.

It supported an abundance of life within the soil and above it.

It moved slowly underground and emerged gently, either feeding streams or pooling in low-lying wetlands.





When Highland Park had fewer paved roads, there was open ground where rainwater would sink in. But now, almost half the ground in the Borough is covered by buildings and pavements.





Our buildings and pavements are purposely constructed to make rainwater drain away as quickly as possible.

Usually, it is routed onto the nearest street, where it flows into a storm drain.

It is transformed from life-giving rain into **storm water runoff.**





Stormwater runoff flows swiftly from storm drains directly into streams or rivers.





The stream beds are too narrow to hold the flood of rapidly moving water.





Stormwater channeled away from homes upstream can damage properties downstream.





Street trash is washed into storm drains and carried downstream, where it collects or is carried out to sea.





Rushing stormwater erodes stream banks.

Muddy water and silt flow downstream.

Most living things in the stream perish.





Meanwhile, our soil is starved of water.





Let's find ways for rainwater to be absorbed into the ground before it becomes stormwater runoff.

Collectively, we can restore a cycle of natural wellness and care in Highland Park by implementing healthy stormwater management techniques.