

# Improving Water Quality in Your Neighborhood



You are looking at a variety of management structures that were installed in 2006 to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff on Potash Brook. They catch some of the sediment and other pollutants in stormwater runoff before they reach Potash Brook. **Look for structures on both sides of the road.**

**Can you find 1 storm drain, 3 culverts, and 4 scuppers** that direct stormwater from Dorset Street and I-89 into Potash Brook?

**Stormwater runoff** is rain or snowmelt that flows over rooftops, streets, sidewalks, lawns and farm fields.

## Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

- **Flooding:** Litter and sediment carried by stormwater runoff clog storm drains and culverts.
- **Erosion:** Scours away stream beds and erodes stream banks.
- **Aquatic animals can't eat or breathe:** Murky water keeps animals from seeing their food and prevents oxygen-producing underwater plants from growing.
- **Destroys habitat:** The natural food chain is disrupted when the habitat for tiny stream organisms is lost.
- **Poisons humans, fish, and wildlife:** Insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and vehicle fluids can cause fish to become sick and poses a risk to the waterfowl, wildlife and people who eat them.
- **Algae blooms:** Fertilizer stimulates algae growth, which can make swimmers sick and decrease the dissolved oxygen levels available to aquatic life.
- **Bacteria:** Harmful bacteria from pet and livestock waste can wash into swimming areas creating health hazards.
- **Hurts the economy:** It costs more to purify drinking water, and closed beaches and restricted fishing negatively affect local businesses.



**Can you find the wet swale?**  
This type of structure is perfect for tight spaces and landscapes with high groundwater.

**Can you find the constructed wetland?** This structure captures some of the sediment and pollution in the stormwater runoff.

Sediment pollution generated from stormwater.



Scupper



Storm Drain



Culvert