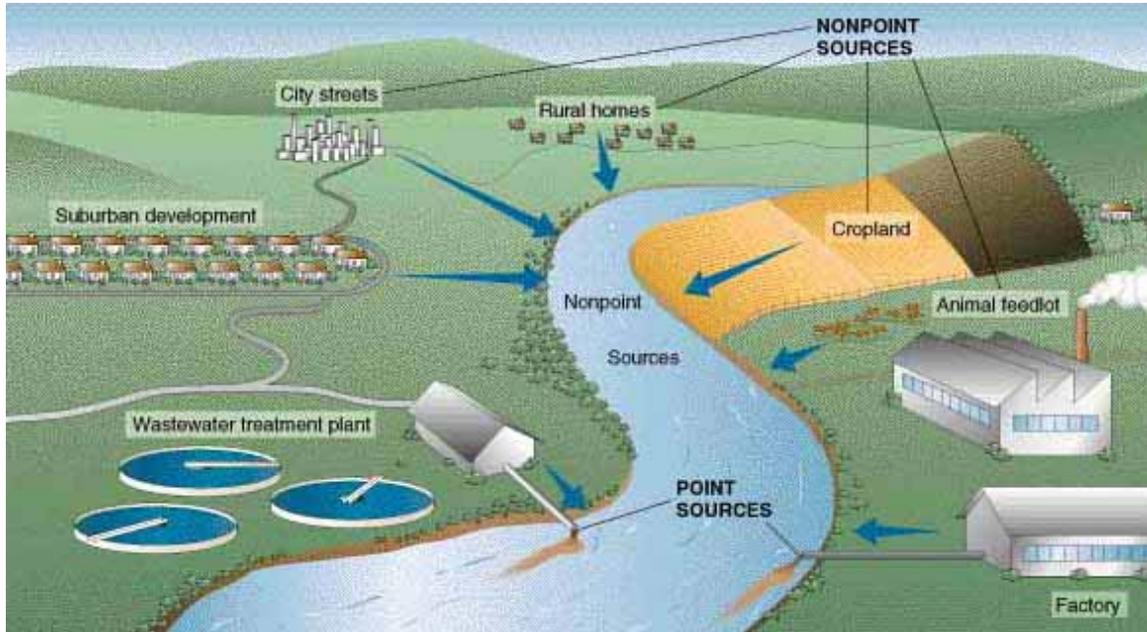


What is Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution? And How Does It Affect Storm Water Drains Located Throughout The University Campus



Non-point source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial facilities, comes from many dispersed sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants through storm water drains, which is eventually deposited into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks;
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems.

Non-point source pollution is reportedly the leading remaining cause of water quality problems. The effects of non-point source pollutants on specific waters vary and may not always be fully assessed; however, these pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

Non-point source pollution results from a wide variety of human activities on the land. Each of us can contribute to the problem without even realizing it, but if we all work together we can reduce and prevent non-point source pollution.