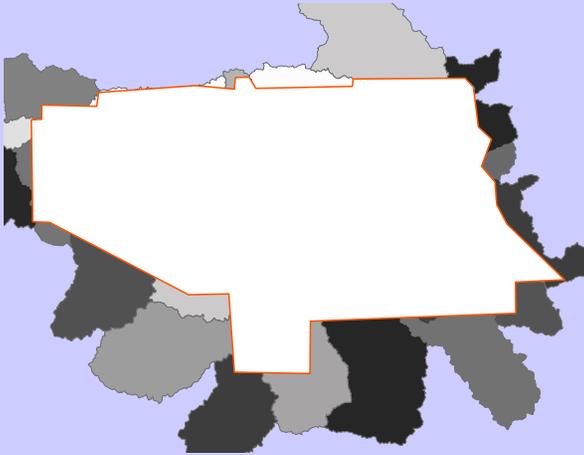


Storm Water Management Program

In May of 2001 the governmental agencies that make up ALOA joined together to address EPA's upcoming Phase II requirements.

This brochure is one of a series of publications regarding storm water issues in Lee County.

The series is produced by the ALOA Storm Water Advisory Panel and is intended to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of local waters in order to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.



Is this a storm sewer or sanitary sewer manhole cover?

Contact Information

For more information regarding your community's storm water program please contact the following agencies:

City of Auburn – Department of Water Resource Management
334-501-3077
www.auburnalabama.org/wrm

Lee County – County Engineer
334-745-9792
www.leeco.us

City of Opelika – Department of Public Works
334-705-5400
www.opelika.org

Auburn University – Risk Management and Safety
334-844-4805
www.auburn.edu/administration/rms/

A Publication Presented by



Sewer Systems



ALO A

“Local Citizen Groups and Governments Working Together for Clean Water”

WHAT IS A SEWER SYSTEM?

A sewer system is a system of pipes, drains, manholes and inlets that convey sanitary sewage to a wastewater treatment plant or stormwater runoff to a waterbody, such as a stream, creek, river, or lake. Most cities now have stormwater and sanitary sewer systems separated. The water you shower with, the water you flush down the toilet, the water that drains from the kitchen and laundry all go down the same pipe to a wastewater treatment plant. The water you see running down the street during a storm drains directly to a creek somewhere. So, how can you actually tell what manhole goes to a wastewater treatment plant and which one goes to a creek? An easy way to tell is by looking at the manhole cover itself. Manhole covers that have the words "SEWER" or "SANITARY SEWER" cast in them go to a wastewater treatment plant. Manhole covers that have the word "STORM SEWER" cast in them means the pipes will drain stormwater directly to a creek.



Does this flow to a treatment plant?



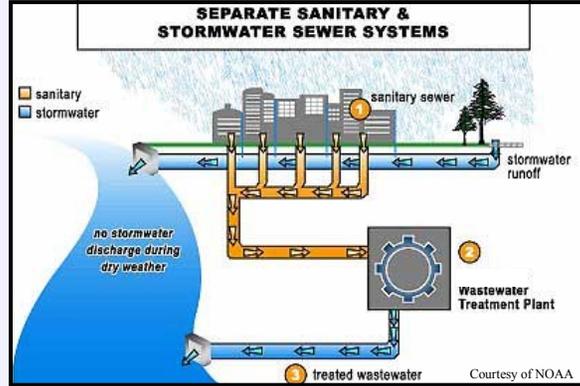
H.C. Morgan Water Pollution Control Facility (Auburn, AL)

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

A properly operated, designed and maintained sanitary sewer system collects and transports all of the sewage that flows to it to a wastewater treatment plant. The showers, sinks, toilets, floor drains and laundry machines in your home all drain to a wastewater treatment plant. Just as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is regulated by a National Pollutant Elimination System Permit (NPDES) permit, so is the sanitary sewer system. Discharges to waterbodies from the facilities where wastewater is treated are required to be monitored on a routine basis to maintain compliance with a NPDES permit.

STORM SEWER SYSTEMS

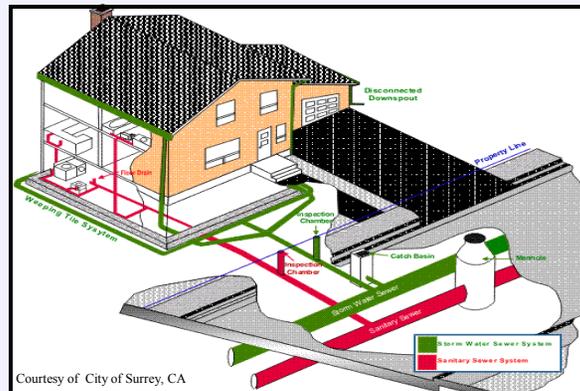
A storm sewer system consists of inlets, pipes, swales and ditches that carry stormwater runoff to a waterbody. The City of Auburn, Lee County, Opelika and Auburn University are



Separate storm and sanitary sewer systems



Stormwater drains to creeks and rivers untreated



Red is sanitary, green is storm—lot level detail

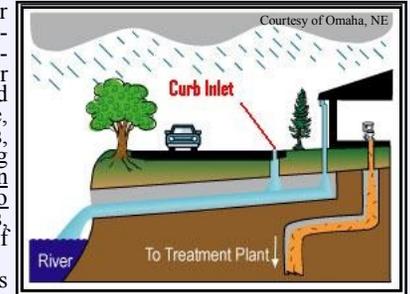
STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (CONT.)

regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management as Phase II MS4 permittees. In Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System communities the draining of stormwater is totally separate from, and not a part of, a sanitary sewer system. It is important to remember that separate storm sewer systems drain stormwater runoff untreated directly to our streams, creeks and lakes. Therefore, trash, grass clippings, oil and grease leaking from automobiles can be washed directly to creeks when it rains, if not disposed of properly.

As MS4 communities we are required to obtain NPDES permit coverage for our stormwater discharges. This permit requires the permittee to develop and implement a stormwater management program to reduce contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. This is why it is illegal to dump chemicals and other pollutants, such as oil, grease and sewage, into our storm drains.



Stormwater curb inlet



Simple cross section of separate system

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As an element of the education and outreach component of its Phase II permit, the City of Auburn has developed a Storm Drain Marking Program. Storm drain inlets, as seen in the above City of Auburn stormwater curb inlet photo, are marked with a marker designed by local elementary school students that indicate what particular creek the inlet drains to. For more information on this program, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Ballard at dballard@auburnalabama.org or 334-501-7367.

For more information on sanitary and storm sewer systems check any of the references listed below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SEWER SYSTEMS AND HOW YOU ARE CONNECTED VISIT ANY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS

[HTTP://WWW.AUBURNALABAMA.ORG/WRM](http://www.auburnalabama.org/wrm)

[HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV](http://www.epa.gov)

[HTTP://ADEM.STATE.AL.US/DEFAULT.CNT](http://adem.state.al.us/default.cnt)