

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the water produced when rain, snow, sleet, etc. falls to earth. Stormwater can either seep into the ground or collect to potentially become a flood. Often, the stormwater will make its way to our streams and creeks.

To protect Thurmont from flooding, and to keep our streams healthy for fish and other wildlife, the Town has many drains, pipes, and ponds that make up the “storm sewer system”. The storm sewer system directly drains to our streams, rivers, and ponds and plays a very important part in keeping our waters clean.

**Did you know** that the Town of Thurmont is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed? And that the watershed is so big that six states are part of it?

You can protect the watershed, by following the advice in this pamphlet and by participating in local stormwater events. More information on these events can be found on the Town’s website.



## Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Resources

For stormwater information and activities, like puzzles and videos, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website below.

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/resources-students-and-educators-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution>

Visit the Town’s website, or attend a Town meeting to learn more about stormwater.



# What is Stormwater?

For Kids and Schools

Thurmont Town Office

615 East Main Street  
P.O. Box 17  
Thurmont, MD 21788

—  
(301) 271-7313  
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[www.thurmont.com](http://www.thurmont.com)



—GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAINS—  
**THURMONT**  
Maryland

**ARRO**

## Why should we care about stormwater?

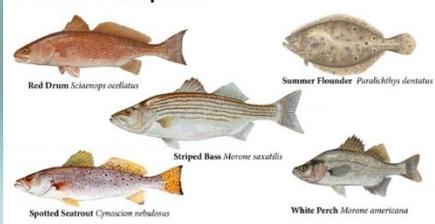
Keeping our streams clean is very important. Everything that lives in and around our streams, like fish and other wildlife, needs clean water to live healthy lives.



Many of our rivers, streams, and lakes contain pollution that hurts the health of the waterway and the creatures that live in it.

Rain falls everywhere outside, so anything that is left outside can make its way into our streams. This means that, while leaving a small piece of trash might look like it is not a big deal, all the trash and other harmful things left outside add up to equal sick fish and animals.

### Fish of the Chesapeake



## What can I do to help?

Taking care of waterways is everyone's job!

Clean up after your dog!

Make sure you pick up dog waste.



Pick up your trash!

Rain has to travel to get to our streams. As it goes, it can pick up whatever is in its path. If trash is left lying around, the rain will pick it up and carry it right into our streams. To keep our water clean, please pick up after yourself!

-Don't put anything down storm drains.

-Stay out of stormwater ponds, culverts, etc. This is VERY important for safety.



## Keep our streams healthy!

The rain that falls onto your house often finds its way into creeks and streams. It's very important that the water stays clean as it flows into larger waterways.

You can help keep our water clean by making your home and neighborhood as friendly to water as possible!

To protect your neighborhood from damaging floods and high water, storm drains and other pipes were built to carry water away from homes and deliver it to the streams and creeks. You probably have seen these drains around; they look like metal boxes with bars on the side of the road, just like the picture below!

Because rain travels through inlets, it is very important that the inlets stay clean. If someone puts trash into the drain, the rain will carry it right to the stream, so keep our drains clean!

