



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION

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# SOIL EROSION

**Be part of the solution,  
not part of the pollution!**

**Did you Know?** In the U.S., the economic impact of soil erosion costs the nation about \$37.6 billion in productivity losses each year. *(Cornell University study)*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Direct stormwater away from unprotected bare soil.
- Protect exposed soil—use mulch to cover bare areas, and try to establish plants or groundcover there. Ask your local nursery about groundcover to plant in bare areas of your yard.
- Plant a rain garden to slow the flow.
- Consider creating terraces on steeply sloped areas.
- Schedule construction or major landscaping during the dry season—typically September to December in our area.



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## SOIL EROSION

**OCCURS WHEN WATER WASHES RICH TOPSOIL AWAY FROM YOUR YARD**

When this happens, you lose a nutrient-rich resource that your plants need to grow. Topsoil forms slowly over hundreds of years. It is difficult to replace once lost. Topsoil in the United States is lost ten times faster than it can be replaced naturally.

Eroded soil washing into our river, clouds the water and disrupts aquatic life. Local soil is rich in phosphorus. This nutrient causes algal blooms when washed into our water.



## EROSION DESTROYS WATER QUALITY

- Sediment in stormwater runoff fills storm drains and streets with mud, which clogs our River and tributaries.
- The eroded soil can choke the roots of aquatic plants and hinder the ability of fish and other aquatic animals to breathe.

## EROSION DEPENDS ON TWO FACTORS

- How much and how heavily rain comes down.
- How much cover there is to protect the ground.

Trees and other plants keep heavy rains from knock-ing the soil loose and washing it away. Roots hold the soil in place and keep your yard at home. Bare spots in the yard show where your soil is eroding.