

## Stormwater Contamination in Small Urban Areas

*Zurab Jikia*

E-mail: zurab.jikia@gmail.com

Department of Geography, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences,  
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University,  
3, I. Tchavtchavadze Ave., 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia

Stormwater runoff is a significant environmental concern in small urban areas. When rain falls on impervious surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops, it accumulates pollutants and carries them into local water bodies. The contamination of stormwater poses a threat to both human health and the ecosystem. This short essay will explore the issue of stormwater contamination in small urban areas, its causes, and potential solutions.

One of the primary causes of stormwater contamination in small urban areas is the accumulation of pollutants from various sources. Oil and grease from vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens, pet waste, litter, and construction debris are all common pollutants found in stormwater runoff. These contaminants can have detrimental effects on water quality, harming aquatic life and compromising the health of humans who rely on these water bodies.

Small urban areas often lack adequate stormwater management infrastructure, exacerbating the problem. Insufficient or outdated drainage systems, combined with a lack of retention ponds or green infrastructure, contribute to increased runoff and reduced natural filtration of pollutants. Additionally, limited public awareness and education about the impacts of stormwater contamination can lead to improper disposal of waste and an overall lack of environmental consciousness among residents.

To address the issue of stormwater contamination, proactive measures are necessary. First and foremost, improving stormwater management infrastructure is crucial. Retrofitting existing drainage systems with features such as permeable pavement, rain gardens, and bioretention areas can help to filter pollutants and promote natural infiltration. These green infrastructure solutions not only reduce stormwater runoff but also enhance the aesthetics and livability of urban areas.