
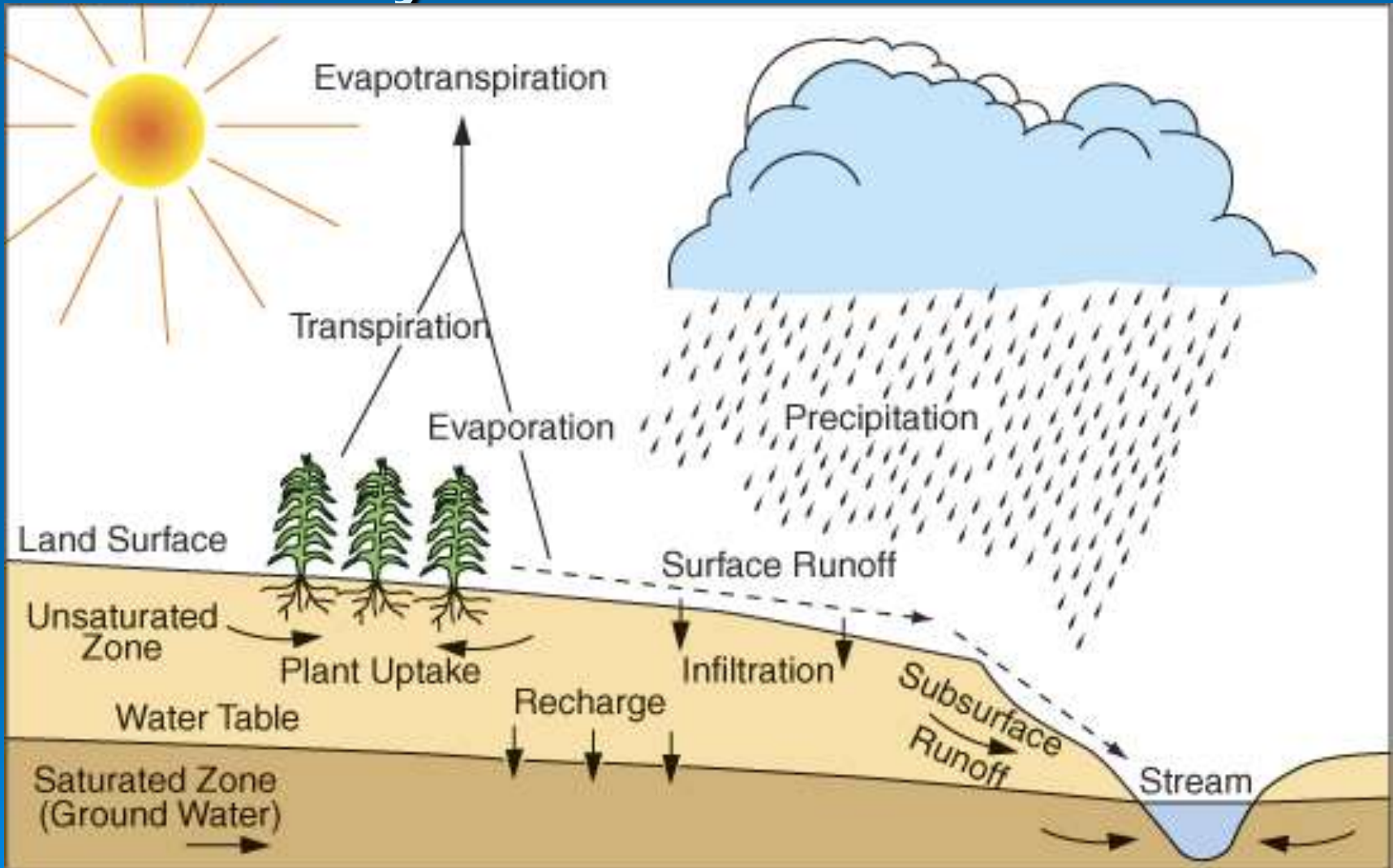


Public Outreach, Education and Involvement Programs *That Really Work!*

Rob Beilfuss, Stormwater Manager
Public Works Department
City of Olathe



Water Cycle: *Remember This?*



Stormwater runoff increases one house at a time...



... which adds up quickly



Traditional Stormwater Infrastructure



Historical engineering goals: control large storm events and quickly move water away from developed areas.

Photos by David Dodds



More water moving downstream
= more erosion...



...and higher pollutant loads.

Regional water quality concerns:

- ✓ Drinking water intakes/wells along Kansas River
- ✓ Bacteria levels at local swimming beaches
- ✓ Algae blooms at local ponds and lakes
- ✓ Sediment loading and streambank erosion
- ✓ Trash and debris in our streams



Clean Water Act

Municipal Stormwater NPDES Regulations

➤ Phase I (1990)

- Medium and large separate storm sewer systems serving populations 100,000 or greater

➤ Phase II (1999)

- Expanded regulation to include smaller municipalities in “urbanized areas” and those outside urbanized areas with populations greater than 10,000

Kansas Regulated Municipalities

- Phase I: Unified Gov/KCK, Topeka, Wichita (1998)
- Phase II: Shawnee, Lenexa, OP, **Olathe**, Lawrence, et. al. (58 total) (2004)

Phase II Stormwater Permits Issued through KDHE with 6 minimum control measures:

- **Public Outreach and Education**
- **Public Involvement**
- Construction Site Stormwater Control
- Post Construction Stormwater Control
- Municipal Pollution Prevention
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Mission Statement

- *“The Stormwater Section implements water quality protection programs and flood control projects that protect the natural and developed environment **while providing public involvement and education opportunities.**”*

- City of Olathe Stormwater Management Plan

Public Outreach and Education

- ✓ Web Page
- ✓ Aqua Fest
- ✓ Electronic News Letters
- ✓ Interpretive Signs
- ✓ Educational Booths
- ✓ Regional Water Quality Education Initiatives

Aqua Fest

- Includes educational games that meet 3rd grade level science curriculum.
 - Incredible Journey (Water Cycle)
 - Freddie the Fish (Nonpoint Source Pollution)
 - The Long Haul (Water Conservation)
 - Stream Trailer (Watersheds and Stream Erosion)

Thanks KACEE and Project Wet!!!

Aqua Fest: Freddie the Fish



Aqua Fest: The Long Haul



Aqua Fest: The Incredible Journey



Aqua Fest: Stream Trailer



Public Involvement

- BMP Cost Share Program
- Adopt a Stream Program
- Public Meetings
- Olathe Connect System
- Customer Satisfaction Surveys

BMP Cost Share Program

- Rain Barrels
 - 50% cost share up to \$75 (each)
- Rain Gardens/Bio-swales
 - 50% cost share up to \$1,000
- Native Plant Buffers
 - 50% cost share up to \$1,000

<http://www.olatheks.org/PublicWorks/Stormwater/StormwaterBMP>

Rain Barrels



Rain Gardens



S WILEY

Bio-swale



Adopt a Stream

We provide:

- ✓ opportunity for volunteers to remove trash from streams;
- ✓ free gloves and trash bags for volunteers;
- ✓ and, removal of bags/debris collected during each event.

Adopt a Stream Volunteers



Results

➤ In 2015:

- 104 3rd graders participated in Aquafest
- 3,203 people visited our web page
- 48,000 residents received our electronic news letter
- Residents received cost share for 43 rain barrels, 1 rain garden and 4 bio-swales
- 3 volunteer groups cleaned 2.5 miles of stream and removed 29 bags of trash (and three tires)

Contact Information

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