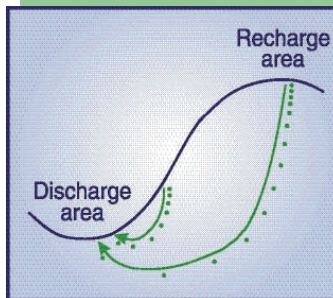


How Can Recharge Areas Be Protected?

- ◆ Preserve enough of the right kinds of spaces to allow as much water as possible to infiltrate the ground.

Tools needed:
good municipal planning and ordinances; development designs that provide for recharge.



- ◆ Keep pollutants off the ground; contamination of groundwater usually takes place in recharge areas.

RECHARGE AREA? WHAT'S THAT?



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Recharge Area: land surface from which water can soak into the ground.

They are vital to our well-being. Why?

Because they —

- ◆ Reduce stormwater runoff which contributes to flooding during heavy rains;
- ◆ Maintain groundwater levels for water wells and surface waters.

Recharge Areas

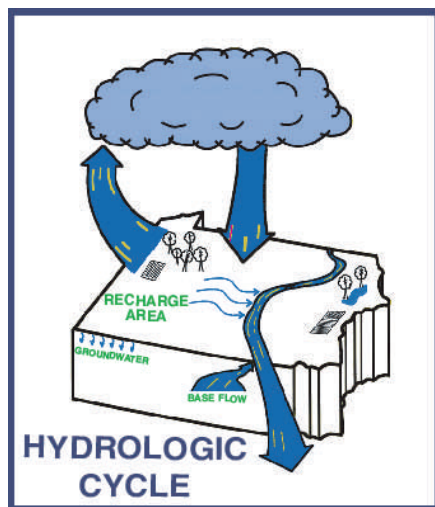
Woodlands, farms, gardens, parks and greenways are the most effective recharge areas. Lawns help, too, but have a more limited capacity as the ground is apt to pack firmly from mowing.



Greenways and parks help recharge groundwater .

More About Recharge

Think of recharge as one phase of the water cycle. Water (as rain, snow, fog, hail, etc.) falls on the surface of the land. From there, it seeps into the ground to nourish plants and replenish groundwater supplies. When precipitation falls faster than the ground can receive it, the excess runs off over the surface as stormwater until it enters a wetland, creek, lake or other water body.



Infiltration

The amount of stormwater that infiltrates (soaks into) the ground is quite variable. Both the amount and rate of infiltration depend on the type of soil, the time of year, the land cover, and the moisture content of the soil before the storm. For example, in woodlands the infiltration rate is about 50%, while in developed areas, it averages about 32%.

Important note:

Groundwater provides the base flow for rivers and streams, the water flowing there when there has been no rain for some time.

Stormwater: A Valuable Resource

Stormwater should be considered a valuable resource, not a nuisance to get rid of as fast as possible.

A better solution — keep stormwater on the land as long as possible, and as close as possible to where it falls, so it will have a chance to replenish our groundwater.

Good Neighbors

Preventing heavy stormwater runoff makes us good neighbors to people living downstream. As we lessen the amount of stormwater that gets into a stream, we reduce flooding downstream.



Be a good neighbor