

What does all this underground pipe do?

In a stormwater system, everything is designed to flow downhill. Developed surfaces are graded to direct runoff from precipitation into the stormwater system. Stormwater runoff enters the system through inlets such as the grates above catch basins. As water flows into a catch basin, most sediment settles to the bottom and the clearer water at the top continues to flow through the stormwater pipe network. This network involves a series of pipes, which become increasingly larger in diameter as they run down-system. Large pipes called culverts transport this stormwater beneath roadways, railways, and buildings. Eventually, stormwater exits the system at an **outfall**, or a permitted area where stormwater is discharged into a natural water body like a creek or river.

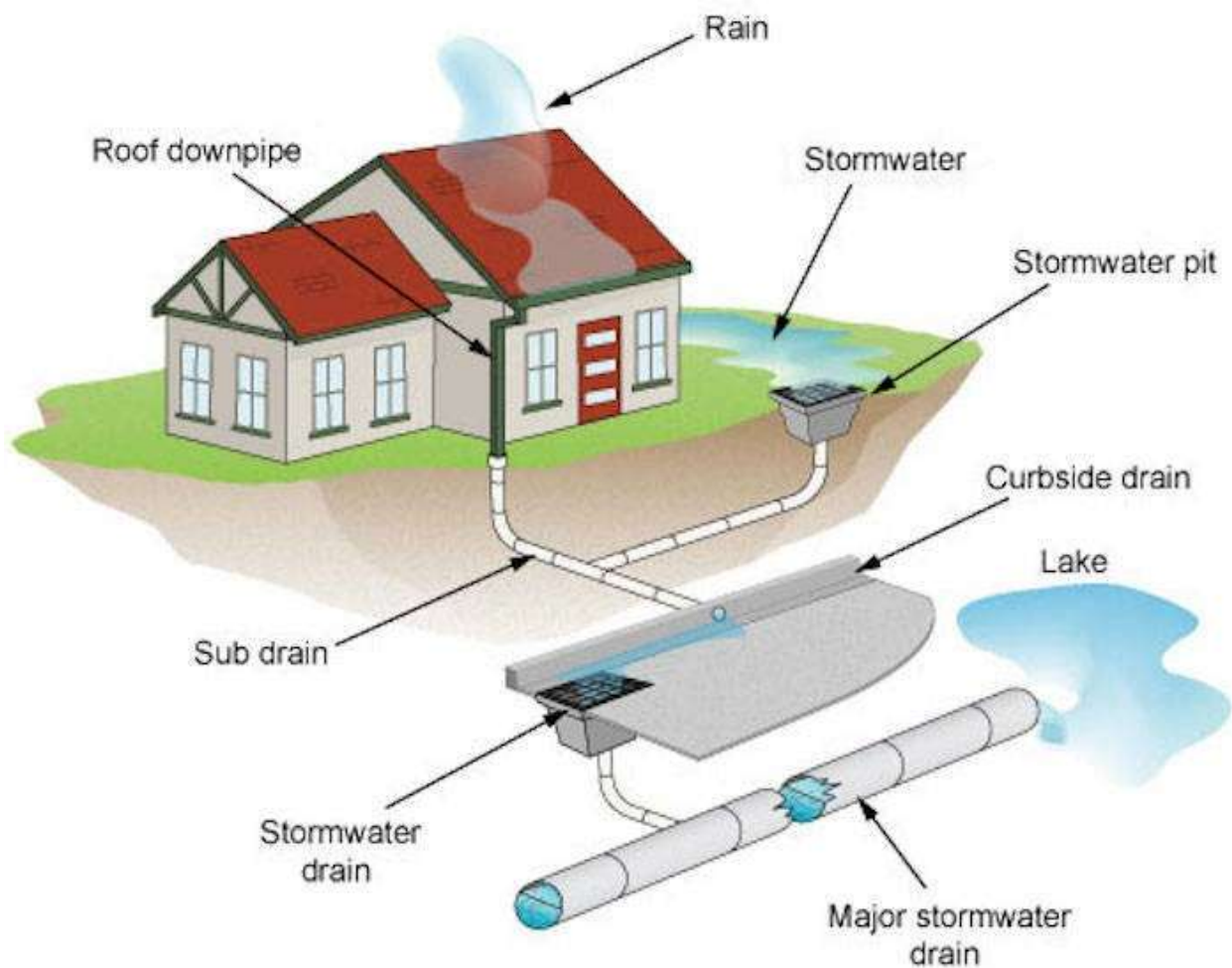


Figure 2 - Example of a stormwater system. Adapted from https://activerain.com/image_store/uploads/agents/johnarendsen/files/STORM%20WATER%20DRAINAGE.jpg