

NOAA Live! Webinar Series presents Keeping Rain from the Drain

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Q&A

1. What are the worst pollutants?

It depends. There are several pollutants, for example heavy metals and pathogens, that are harmful to humans and can pose threats to human health if they get into drinking water sources or are found in recreational waters where we like to play; but sediment can be just as detrimental to a local waterbodies' ecosystem – harming plants and animals living in the waterbody. The damage from pollutants is often linked to the quantity of the pollutant, too.

2. Where do you direct your drain if you live in the city with no yard?

Directing the drain toward community green space or harvesting the water are good options. Many cities have green infrastructure initiatives – which are good ways to learn more about where your water is going and talk with decision-makers.

3. What's your favorite part of your job?

Toughest question yet :). My favorite part is when the people I'm working with learn something and then act. I love hearing about when a city installs permeable pavement in a place that previously flooded or when someone installs a rain garden at home, or they see a practice in a local park and tell someone else about it. Science in action is the very best part of what I do!