

Grade Your Schoolyard

(Take a Stormwater Walk-A-Bout on campus)



Take a walk outside to see what your school is doing to protect our waterways from polluted stormwater runoff. Use the following questions to find out. When you are finished, make some suggestions for how your school could improve. What could you and your class do to help?

RUNOFF & EROSION

1. What type of surface do the school's downspouts pour onto?
 - a. onto vegetation, mulch, patch of rocks, – 10
 - b. onto pavement or eroding ground – 5
 - c. onto ground near waterway without buffer – 0
2. How much of your schoolyard is covered with impervious (hard) surfaces?
 - a. less than 10% - 10
 - b. 10%-25% - 5
 - c. more than 25% - 0
3. Walkways are covered with...
 - a. a pervious surface like wood chips, that allows water to soak into the ground - 10
 - b. bare ground, just grass, no real walkway – 5
 - c. an impervious surface, that water can't soak into - 0
4. Look for patches of bare soil and signs of erosion, like areas where rainwater has carved out ditches or soil has splashed onto windows or walls. The schoolyard has..
 - a. very little erosion and bare patches - 10
 - b. several areas showing erosion - 5
 - c. large bare patches and eroded areas – 0

VEGETATION

1. How much of the grounds are regularly mowed?
 - a. less than 50% - 10
 - b. 50%-80% - 5
 - c. over 80% - 0

2. The land around where runoff collects (i.e. storm drains and drainage ditches)
 - a. covered with trees and shrubs - 10
 - b. covered with unmowed grass - 7
 - c. covered with mowed grass - 3
 - d. bare soil or pavement – 0

3. How is the grass fertilized?
 - a. grass clippings are left on the lawn to decompose - 10
 - b. with lawn fertilizer according to soil test results - 7
 - c. with lawn fertilizer according to instructions on the bag (no soil test done) - 3
 - d. lawn fertilizer randomly applied – 0

4. Generally, how many trees and bushes are on the school ground?
 - a. many trees and bushes - 10
 - b. trees and bushes dot the landscape here and there– 5
 - c. few or no trees and bushes – 0

EDUCATION

1. How many storm drains are labeled to let people know they go straight to waterway?
 - a. all - 10
 - b. a few - 5
 - c. none – 0

2. How many ways are there to learn about water quality at your school? (speakers, posters, etc)
 - a. 3 or more - 10
 - b. 1 or 2 - 5
 - c. none – 0

3. How much litter do you see in the schoolyard?
 - a. none - 10
 - b. some - 5
 - c. a lot – 0

TRANSPORTATION

1. How many people work at your school? How many cars are in the parking lot?
 - a. 50% fewer cars than people - 10
 - b. 25% fewer cars than people - 5
 - c. one car per person – 0

2. Are there bike racks at your school? Are they used?
 - a. bike racks full of bikes - 10
 - b. bike racks with a few bikes - 5
 - c. no bike rack – 0

3. Is there any sort of reward or encouragement for teachers or students to walk to school, ride their bikes, carpool, or take public transportation?
 - a. yes - 10
 - b. no – 0

Total Score _____ (possible 140)

0 - 80 **Needs Improvement**
80 - 120 **Better Than Average**
120 - 140 **Excellent**

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(Take a Stormwater Walk-A-Bout on campus)

As you walk around campus, make a list of ideas to help control polluted stormwater runoff on your school campus. You can also map out areas on your school grounds that need vegetation, are suffering from erosion, have clogged ditches or storm drains, etc.