

URBAN DEVELOPMENT: The Effects of Impervious Area



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

Figure 1-6: Stormwater gains speed as it flows through pipes designed to efficiently carry it away.

When the natural landscape is urbanized, impervious surface is created that prevents water from being absorbed at the source. Sediments and pollutants from streets, parking lots, homes, yards, and other sources are washed into pipes and water bodies. Stormwater runoff increases as more and more impervious surface is created. The high volume and velocity of stormwater runoff emptying into creeks and streams may cause flooding and erosion, destroying natural habitat. There is a better approach.

