

April 2019

School Weather Stations Measure Rainfall Record



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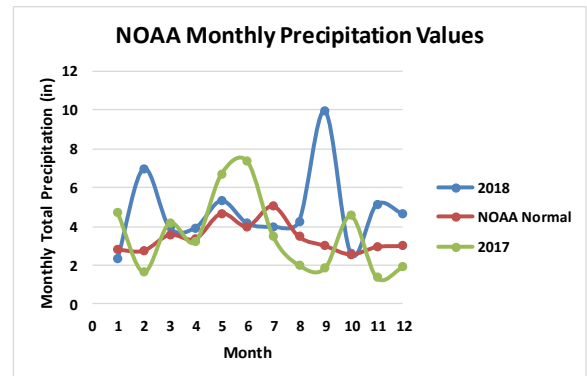
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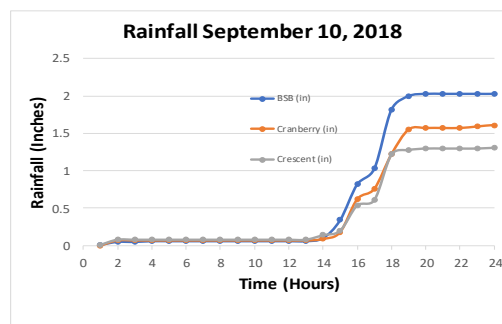
If you thought this past year was particularly rainy, you're right! Beckley experienced some record-setting extremes of weather throughout the year. As a stormwater utility, we pay close attention to the weather, and work hard to manage runoff from storms. We do this by tracking not just individual storms, but patterns of weather across the year. Those patterns help us plan to be storm ready today and in the future. Here are a few impressive weather numbers from 2018:

- 2nd wettest year on record, with **57.2 inches** of rain. (Previous record of **57.4 inches** set in 1935.)
- Record-high rainfall for February (**7 inches**) and September (**10 inches**)! Record rain event — **1.9 inches** of rain on September 27th.
- Wettest Autumn (Sep, Oct, Nov) on record.
- Record daily snowfall — **13.7 inches** on December 9th.



Total precipitation in Beckley for 2017 and 2018, as compared to the National Weather Service's normal value!

Learning from weather records is a big part of managing stormwater. We use a large network of sources to watch the weather in Beckley, including weather stations at several Raleigh County Schools. Since they were set up in 2018, these stations have helped track storms in our area, and provided a first-hand look at how the weather can vary, even across town! Notice the rainfall variation from the three



Rainfall from a single storm, recorded at three different weather stations across Beckley. Notice how rainfall varies from station to station!

weather stations during a September storm (left). As weather patterns change, our systems and people must adapt to handle those changes. Knowing where a storm is having the biggest impact helps us deter-



BSB staff showing students one of the weather stations that helps us track storms in Beckley.

mine where to send our crews. These weather stations also provide a number of learning opportunities for the community! Students can learn valuable STEM skills as they get hands-on experience with weather stations on their campuses (above). Students analyze computer data and read weather charts and can apply that knowledge to real-world problem solving! We're proud to invest in our community's future in the classroom!

What is Inflow and Infiltration?

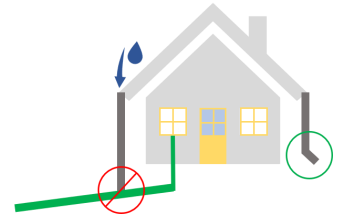


I&I adds too much water to a sanitary sewer system. This water sometimes comes out in sewer overflows, as shown here. Source: U.S. EPA, Boston, MA. "Eliminating Sanitary Sewer Overflows in New England."

Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) happens when stormwater (rainwater that doesn't need to go to a treatment facility) ends up in the sanitary sewer line, on its way to the wastewater treatment plant. It may seem like no big deal, but treating this stormwater uses valuable resources that are needed for the treatment of wastewater. *I&I can put your home at risk to sewer backups and creates overflow into creeks and streams!*

Where Does I&I come from?

While I&I can have many sources, common ones include **fractures or poorly fitting connections in aging sewer lines**. We work diligently to inspect our sewer lines and make necessary repairs and updates.



To prevent I&I, gutters and downspouts should be free flowing, or connected to a storm drain system, not a sanitary sewer system.

I&I also commonly occurs when a home or business has **downspouts or other storm drain lines connected to a sanitary sewer line**, rather than a storm drain network.

How Can I Help?



Check your home or business for any downspouts or storm drains connected to the sanitary sewer line. Contact us with questions!



Spread the word about I&I. Now that you're informed, you can help get the message out to others!

Pick up the Poo!



Did you know our pets' poo can pollute our water? If left on the ground, this "poo-lution" (we couldn't resist!) gets carried by rainfall — straight into streams and lakes! Pet poo in the water can cause all sorts of problems for fish and other aquatic life. It also contaminates the water we use for recreation and drinking water!

Beckley Sanitary Board and Piney Creek Watershed Association have teamed up to place more than two dozen Pet Waste Stations throughout the Beckley Area, near parks and trails and other place frequented by our four-legged friends. These stations are supplied with baggies for those not-so-desirable "packages." Simply place a baggie over your hand, grab that doody deposit, wrap the bag around it, and toss it in a nearby trashcan. So next time you're out with your flatulent feline or your poo-prone pooch, find one of our Pet Waste Stations and **Pick up the Poo!**

To report suspected stormwater pollution, please call BSB at 304-256-1760.