

What is a "First Flush"?

No, it's not the first one up in the morning. We've seen in previous articles the threats to Mirror Lake's water quality get channeled through our storm drain system. Whatever is deposited on our roads, sidewalks, and in our watershed is washed down and into the Lake through that system. When a rain event occurs the most impact comes in the first half inch of precipitation. This is referred to as a "first flush." That's when most of the deposits are carried to the Lake via the storm drain system. After a significant rain event, such as a thunderstorm or a steady, hard rain; you would be surprised to look at a storm drain outflow pipe during this "first flush."

So, take a look at a first flush and consider the sand, silt, animal wastes, petroleum products, phosphorus, nitrogen and detergents that are being deposited in the Lake. Some of which you can see, some of which you cannot. But these threats are manageable through improvements to the storm drain system and adoption of a Storm Water Ordinance. What is a Storm Water Ordinance? It is a Water Quality ordinance. We will find out more next week.

The Mirror Lake Watershed Association meets every second Monday at the Peacock Park Beach House at 5 p.m. Your participation is encouraged. Look for "Lake Appreciation Week"- the last week in June.