



The way water moves from clouds to rain to rivers and back is called the hydrologic cycle. The sun, animals and plants all have an impact on the hydrologic cycle. The sun warms water bodies like rivers and lakes, causing evaporation while plants help water move down into the soil (infiltration) and release water back into the air from their leaves (evapotranspiration).



One of the biggest factors affecting the hydrologic cycle in cities like Moline is the movement of rainwater over paved surfaces and buildings. Since rainwater cannot soak into parking lots, streets and homes, it's collected by gutters and storm drains. As water runs to the nearest storm drain, it carries dirt, oil and trash with it. Storm drains, streets, ditches and ravines are all part of the stormwater system that drains rainwater from the streets and yards of Moline into the Mississippi and Rock Rivers.