

The extreme rain storms that strike with increasing frequency—such as the Memorial Day weekend downpours in Texas— are having devastating effects beyond the severe flooding they cause. Sudden and forceful rains overwhelm urban storm-drain systems, as water pours over roads, rooftops and other impervious surfaces, washing away dust, oil, trash and waste of all kinds. This dirty wash then runs into rivers, streams and lakes, and pollutes downstream drinking water.

Storm water has become a principal contributor to water pollution nationwide, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. More than 700 U.S. cities use combined storm-water and sewer systems, and many are now overwhelmed by the pollution problem. When their overflows foul nearby waterways, these cities face federal legal action under the Clean Water Act, and penalties that range from millions of dollars in fines to billions in mandated spending on traditional equipment such as pipes, tanks and treatment plants.

Excerpt from “Green Roofs, Built on Private Investment,” (2015) in *BloombergView*. Co-authored by Mark Tercek and Douglas Petno.

SCIENCE  
STANZAS

KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of  
Arts and Sciences

# #PoetsForScience

## Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



**The Poets For Science Collection**  
Curated by Jane Hirshfield

**Visit [Science.TravelingStanzas.com](http://Science.TravelingStanzas.com)**  
Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

**Visit [MarchForScience.com](http://MarchForScience.com)**  
Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

**Mark Tercek**  
President and CEO of the  
Nature Conservancy

First Class  
Postage  
Required

**TO:**

---

---

---

---