

# How to Use the GRFX Studio Plugin

GRFX Studio is a photo-editing program that includes hundreds of effects that you can apply to your photos. As soon as you try GRFX Studio you'll see just how easy it is to quickly generate sophisticated photo effects.

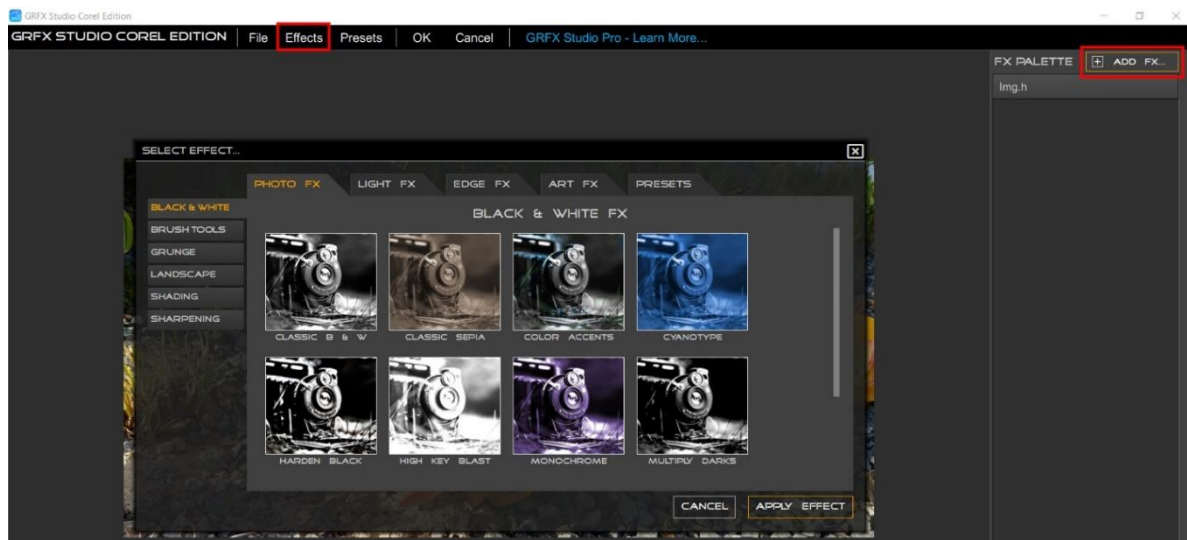
Start with an image open in PaintShop Pro Ultimate and make sure your **Layers** palette is displayed (**View > Palettes > Layers** or press **F8**). In the **Layers** palette, right-click on the **Background** layer to duplicate it. We named this new layer **GRFX** to help keep our layers organized. Keep this layer active (i.e. the layer highlighted in blue), because the active layer is what will be used in the GRFX Studio plugin.



Go to **Effects > Plugins > Auto FX Software > GRFX Studio - Core Edition** and GRFX Studio will launch in a new application window.

## Adding an Effect

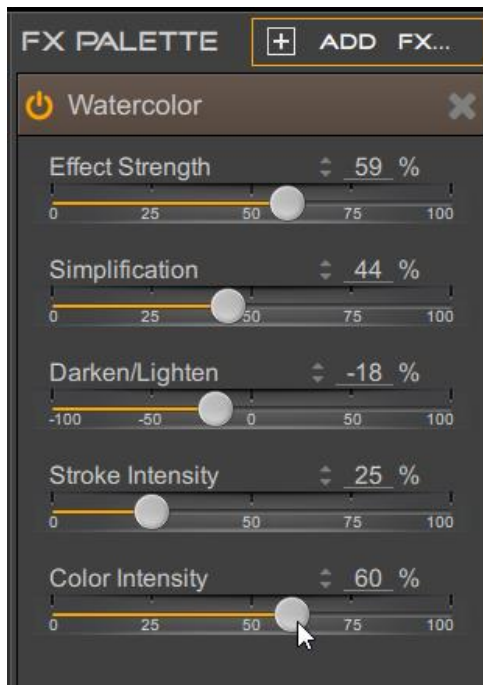
To add the first effect, click on **Effects** in the top menu and choose **Add Effect** or click on the **Add FX** button at the top of the **FX Palette** on the right. There are four effects categories: **PHOTO**, **LIGHT**, **EDGE**, and **ART**, each of which with its own subcategories.



For a simple example, click on the **Art FX** tab, select **Watercolor** and click **Apply Effect**. This adds a watercolor painting appearance to the photo.



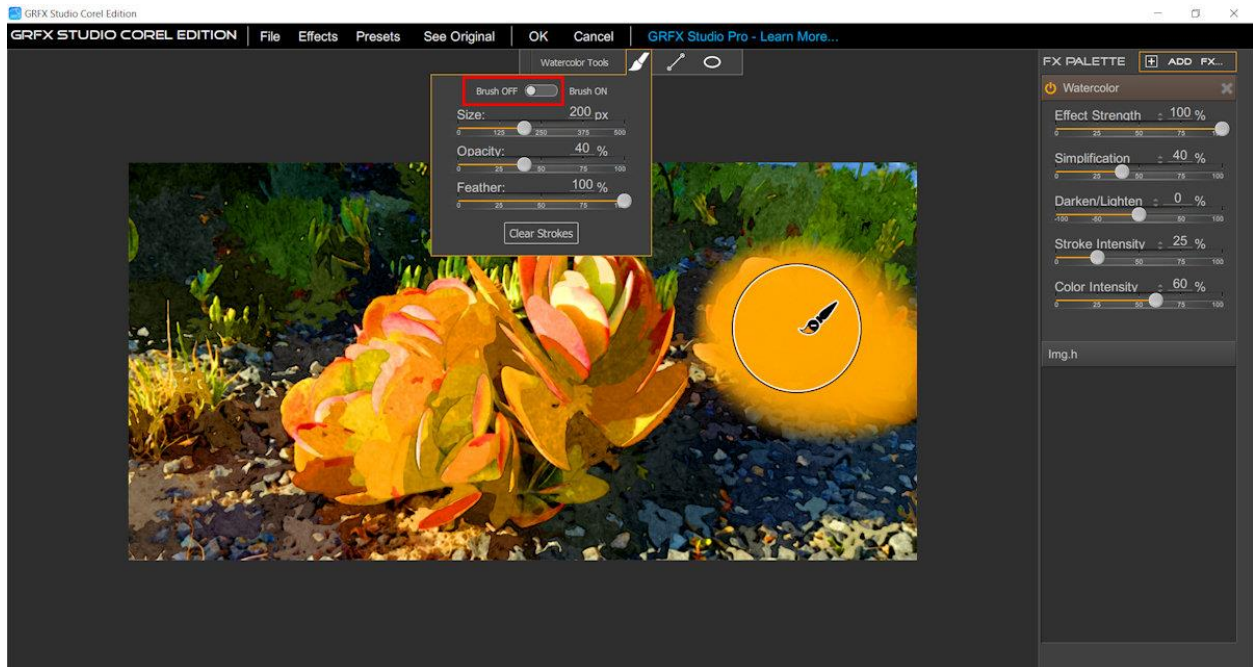
In the **FX Palette**, you can adjust the strength, darken or lighten, or adjust the intensity of the stroke or color.





## Adjusting an Effect

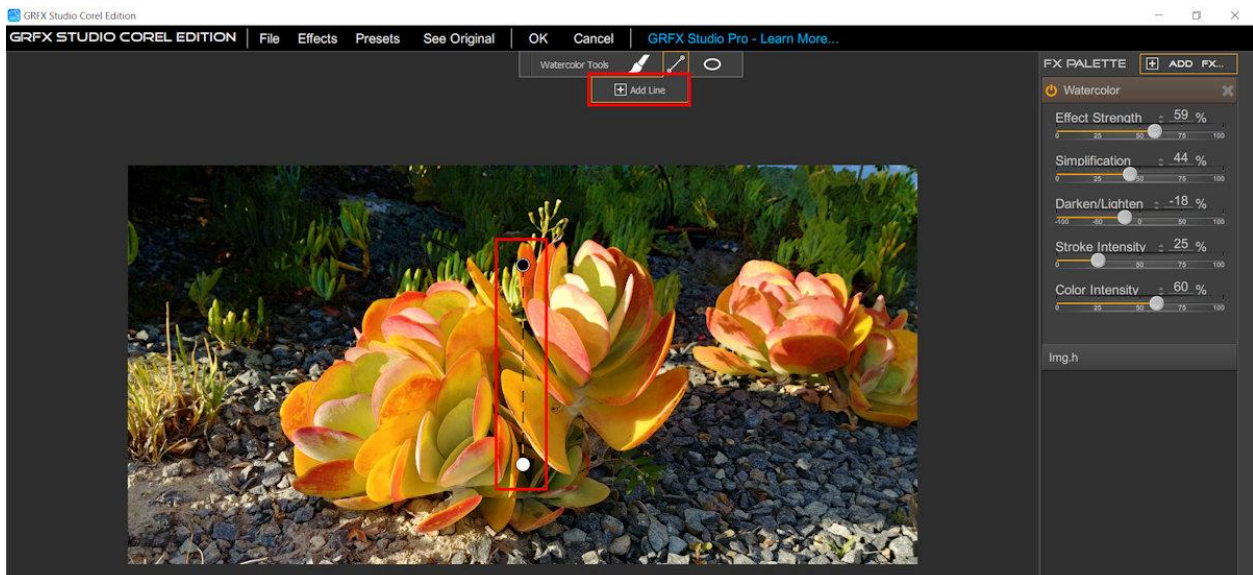
By default, the effect is applied to the entire image. But the **Watercolor Tools** toolbar along the top has options that enable you to control where the effect takes place. For example, click on the **Brush** tool and set it to OFF. Then use the brush to paint over a part of the photo where you want to lessen the effect.



The painted area has less of the watercolor effect, meaning that more of the original photo is showing through. You can brush over the area again to reduce the effect further if you wish.

You can use the **Clear Strokes** button in the brush tool options to remove all brush strokes.

There are two other options in the **Watercolor Tools** toolbar that can be used to restrict the effect to just one area of your image: the **Gradient Line** tool and the **Ellipse** tool. Under the **Gradient Line** tool, click **Add Line** and a vertical line will be placed on your image.



The black handle at the top represents the full watercolor effect, and the white handle at the bottom represents zero watercolor effect. Along the line, the watercolor effect fades from full strength to none. You can drag the endpoints to change the placement and angle of the gradient line, for example a horizontal line that applies a gradient effect from right to left.



**NOTE:** When you hover over the line, an “X” will appear in the center, which you can click to remove the line and return the full-strength effect to the entire image.

The **Ellipse** tool works much the same way. Click on **Add Ellipse** and a target image will be placed on your image, with four handles (top, bottom, left and right). In the center of the target, the effect is zero and gradually increases to full strength outside the target, creating a depth of field type of effect. Use the handles to adjust the shape and size of the target area. Click and drag if you want to move the ellipse to another area of your image.

**NOTE:** you can add more than one ellipse or gradient line (or both) on your image.

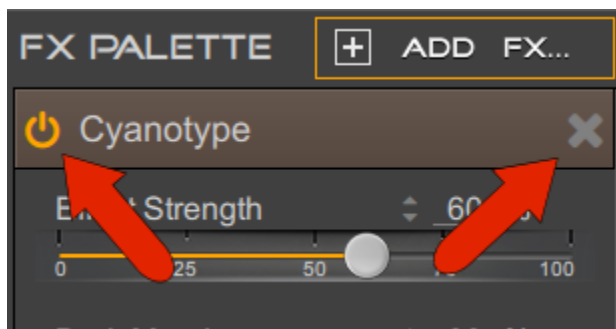
## Combining Multiple Effects

To combine the watercolor effect with another effect, click **Add FX** at the top of the **FX palette**. In this example we chose the **Photo FX** tab, and selected **Cyanotype** from the **Black and White** subcategory. After adjusting a few settings, you can produce what looks like a watercolor painting of a desert evening.





In the **FX Palette**, you can turn each effect on and off, or use the **X** icon to remove an effect.



**TIP:** To compare the image before and after effects, click the **See Original** button in the top menu.

If you want to use this set of effects on other photos, choose **Presets > Save Effects as Preset**. Then for the next photo, you would use the **Presets > Load Preset** option. Any presets you save will also be listed on the **Presets** tab in the **Add Effects** window.

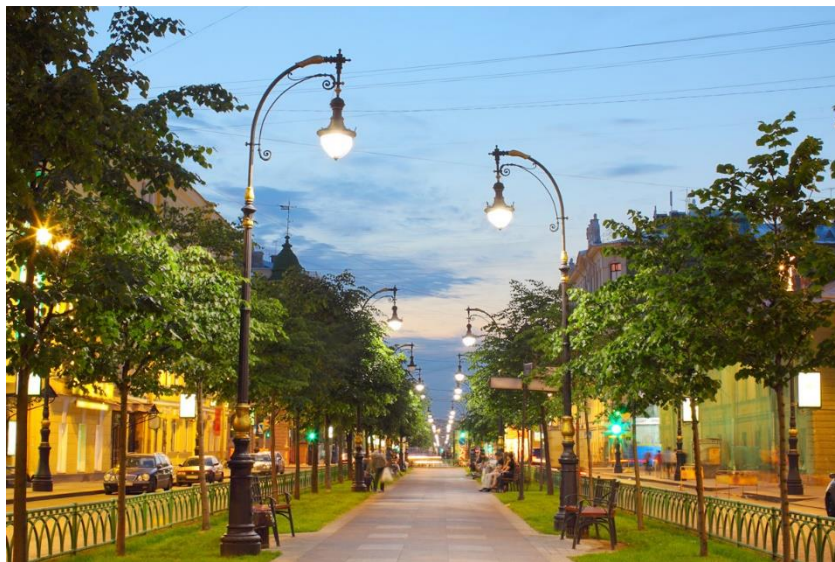
When finished, click **OK** and you will return to PaintShop Pro, where the image now has the new effects, on the layer you created. You can now work with any of PaintShop Pro's effects and tools to further edit the photo.



You can use the **Visibility** (eye) icon to hide the GRFX layer to get the original photo back or delete the layer if you decide you don't like the effects. You can also create more duplicate layers for going back to the GRFX Studio plugin and trying out and comparing different effects.

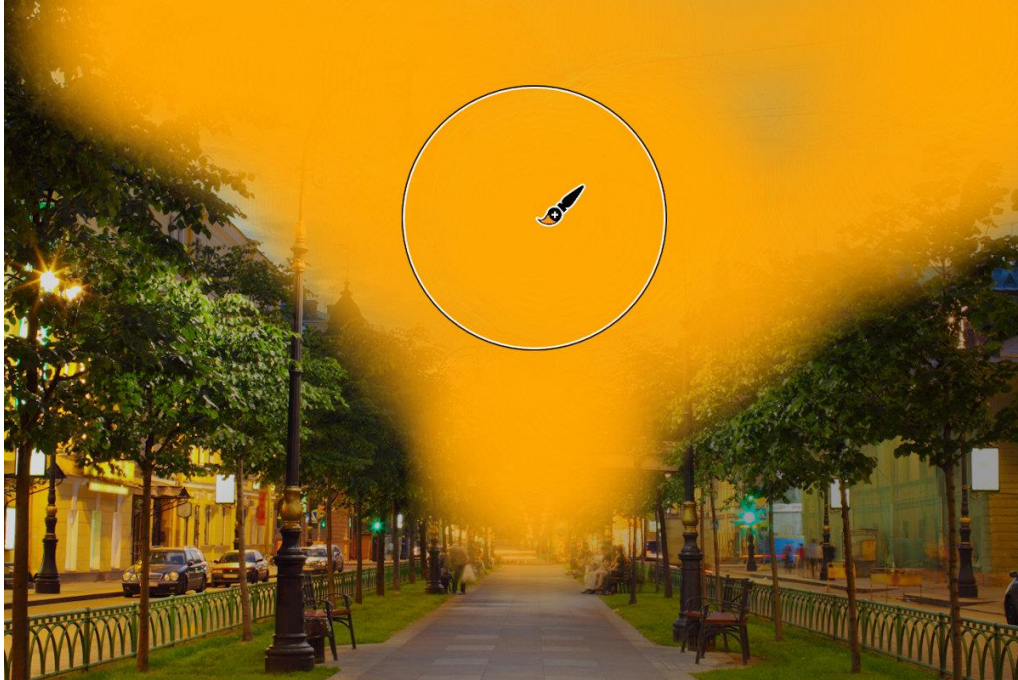
## Get More Effects with GRFX Studio Pro

In this next example we will demonstrate some of the additional effects from the GRFX Studio Pro version that can be purchased from your product's Welcome Screen.

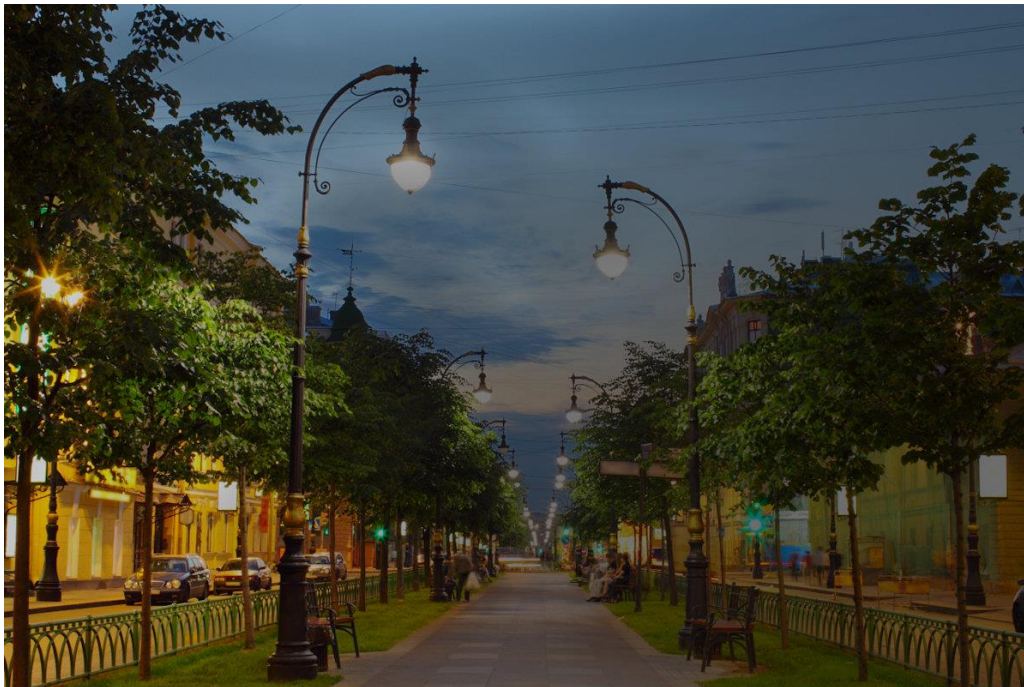


To change this from a bright daytime scene to a darker time of day, choose the **Shading** subcategory on the **Photo FX** tab and apply the **Shade** effect. Click the **Brush** tool and set the brush to ON. Use the **Brush** tool to paint over any areas of your image that you want to apply the effect to. In this example, we made a first pass with the brush over the entire image, then brushed over just the sky a couple more times.





After increasing the **Strength** value, the whole scene becomes darker.



## Adding Light Beams

The next effect is in the **Light FX** tab, in the **Light Beams** subcategory. Choose the type of beam you want and click **Apply Effect**. A T-shaped line will be placed on your image, with handles that can be used to rotate, move and adjust the length of the lines. In this example we positioned the T-path so that the

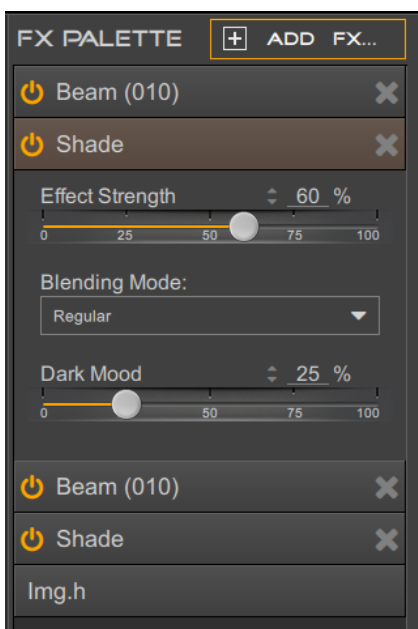
light pours down from the closest streetlamp and reduced the **Opacity** and **Spread** settings in the **FX Palette**. You can also change the light color by clicking **Cast Color** to open a color picker window. Here you can choose a color or click **Pick Screen Color** to sample color from your photo.



## Duplicating Effects

To add a fainter light beam to the next streetlamp, you could apply a new beam from scratch and adjust the settings to your liking. Or you can save the current effects as a preset, which includes both the light and shading. When you load the preset, both effects are repeated, and you will see them stacked in the **FX Palette**.

Click on the **X** beside **Shade** to delete the extra shading, then move and adjust the second light beam.



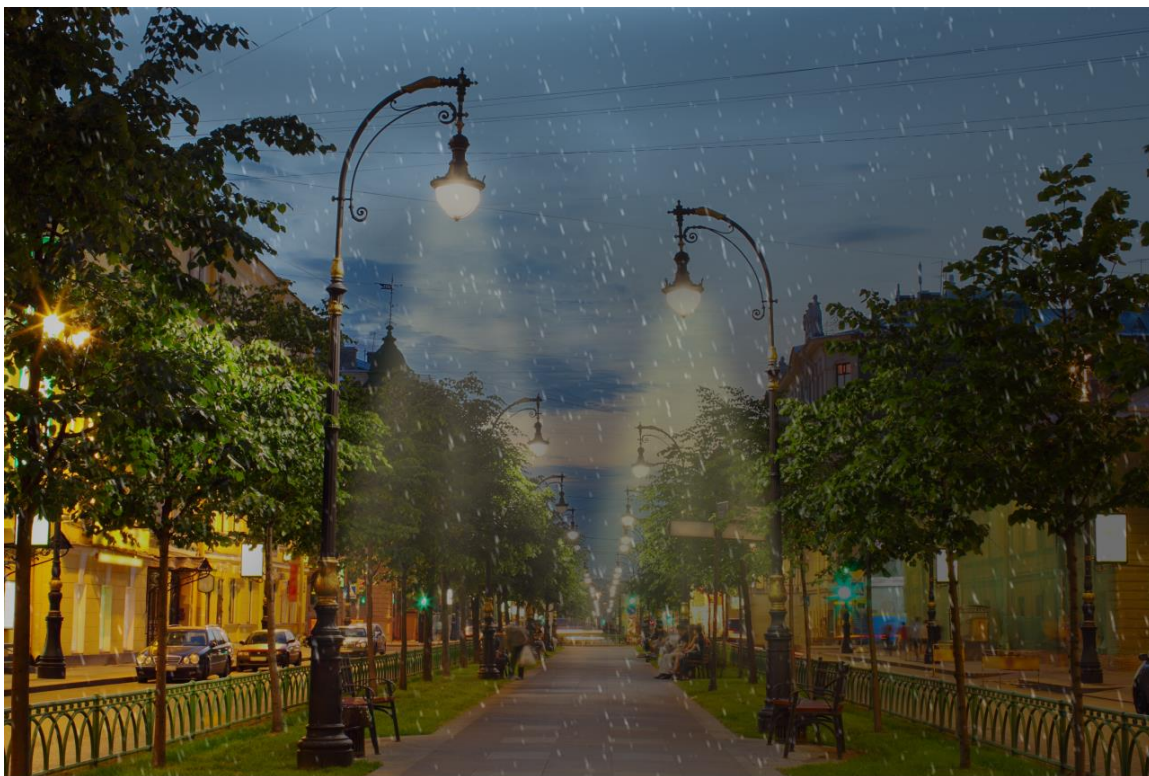




## Additional GRFX Studio Pro Effects

As mentioned at the beginning, the Pro version of GRFX Studio has a wider selection of effects than the free Corel version. Here are some examples.

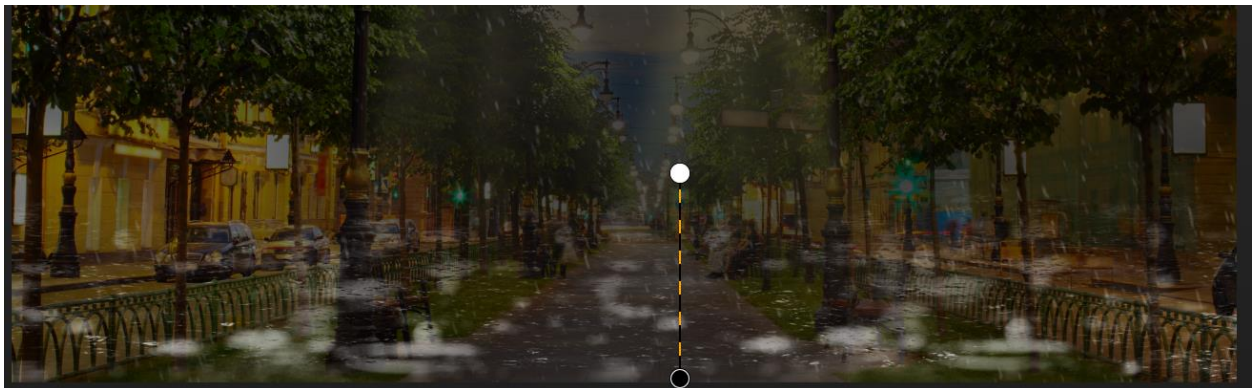
Use the **Weather FX** to apply rain (or snow, or lighting, or sunshine).



For another weather effect, choose one of the **Dramatic Sky** effects, such as this stormy one.



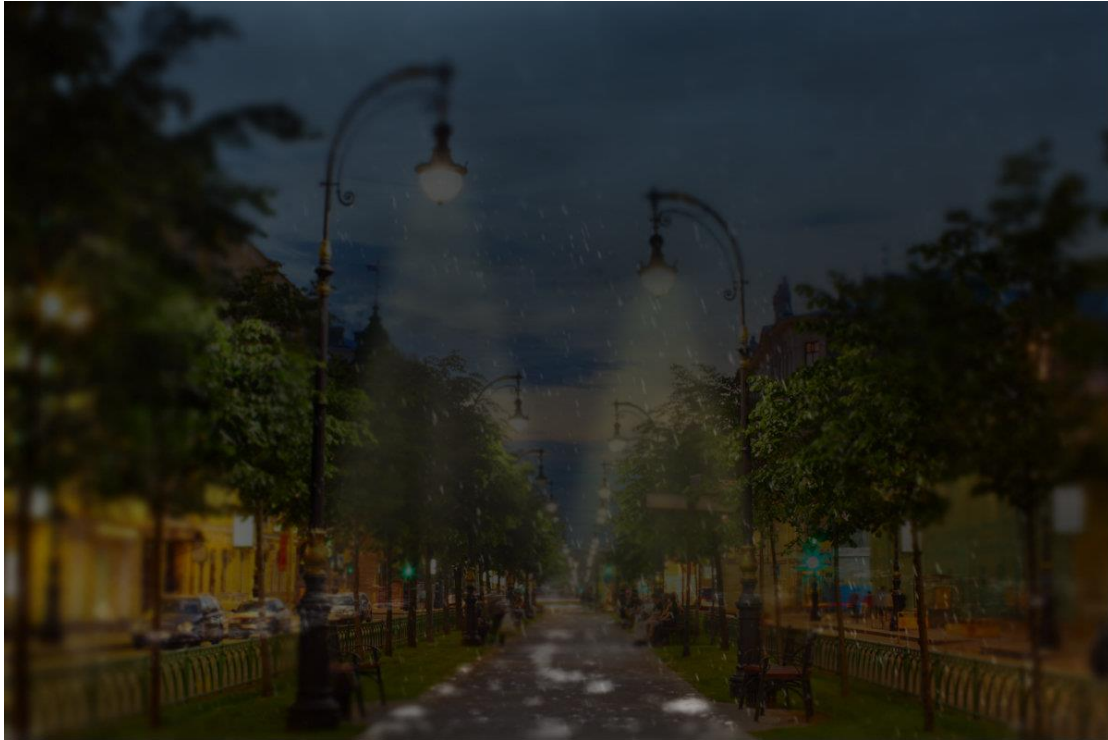
Another fitting effect here would be a rain puddle, also in the **Weather FX** tab, which by default is applied to a lower portion of the image.



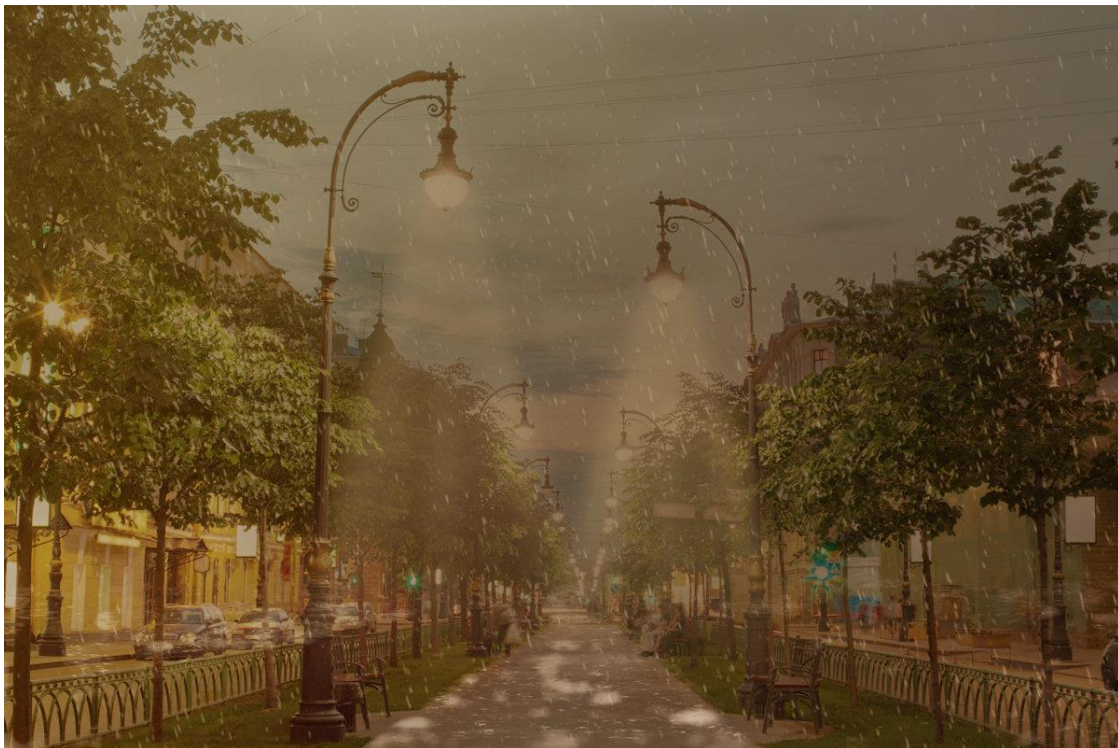
**TIP:** You can use the **Brush** tool to remove the puddles everywhere except the sidewalk.



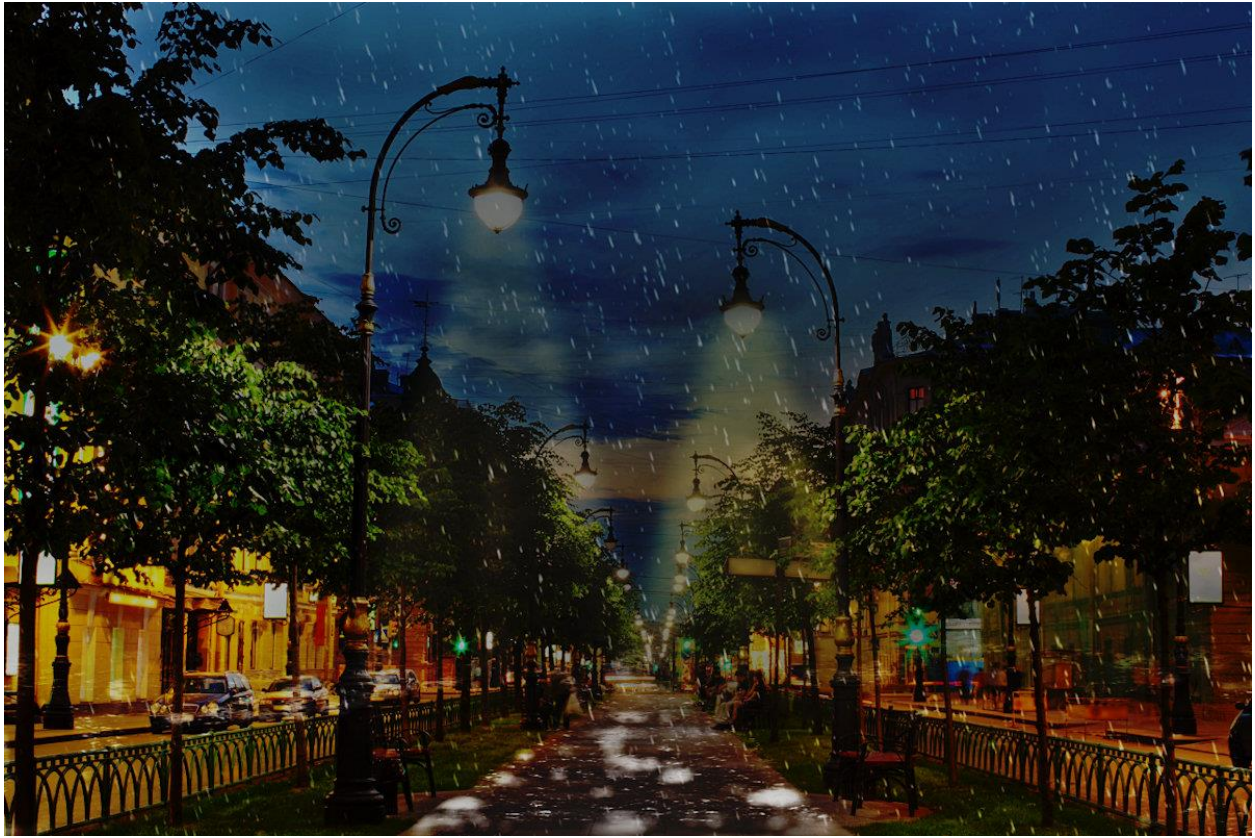
The Pro version also has some nice focal effects such as **Focal Brush**, in which the entire image is blurred and you can brush over areas you want in sharper focus.



Or you can try **Vintage Color** from the **Photo FX > Camera** subcategory.



Or **HDR Color Pop** from the **Photo FX > Color** subcategory.



These are just a few of the over 1200 different effects available in GRFX Studio Pro that can be used on their own or combined and stacked with other effects for truly unique results every time. And don't forget – once you bring your image back into PaintShop Pro you can make further edits with PaintShop Pro's effects and tools.