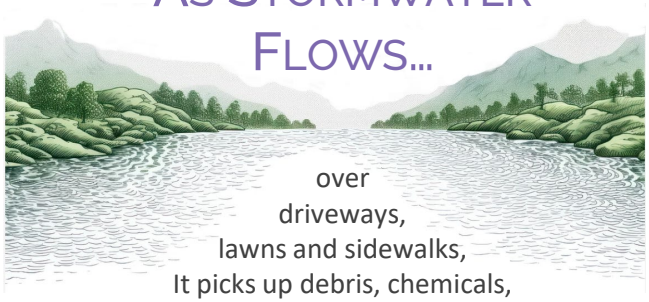
As Stormwater Flows...



over
driveways,
lawns and sidewalks,
It picks up debris, chemicals,
dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, steam, river wetland or coastal water..

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like:

- Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Grass clippings
- Automotive fluids



off the ground and out of stormwater.

Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share these habits with your neighbors!



Visit the ***Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)*** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.

GCSA
Green Country Stormwater Alliance

Contact Information:
For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at (918) 584-7526 or by email at stormwater@incog.org. For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator (contact info below).

For more information about stormwater protections, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at (405) 702-8100 or visit the DEQ website at: deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/

For stormwater related complaints, call the DE statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24/7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ website at: deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/ and submit it electronically to DEQ. This site also provides contact links to DEQ.

CLAREMORE
STORMWATER

For more information:

(918) 341-0457 x285

stormwater@claremore.com

WE CLAREMORE



A Pet Owner's Guide To Protecting Our Water



THE IMPACT OF PET WASTE: A Closer Look

Responsible Pet Ownership

Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution is contamination that reaches our creeks from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, littering, and changing motor oil. With each rainfall, the pollutants generated by these activities are washed from streets and lawns into storm drains that flow to our creeks. You can help prevent NPS pollution!

Pet Waste

As a pet owner, you can establish habits that will keep our creeks free of pollutants. Animal wastes contain bacteria, viruses and nutrients which will lower water quality in our creeks. Pet waste is bad for streams for **two reasons**. First, the bacteria in pet waste can **cause illness in humans**, if contaminated water contacts an open wound or is ingested. Second, bacteria require oxygen in order to live and, as a result, **reduce the amount of oxygen in the water** that is available for fish.

Pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance and a carrier of potential illness into our streams. Pollutants from improper disposal of pet waste may wash into the streams through the storm drainage system.

That is why it is important to walk your pets in grassy areas, parks or undeveloped areas. Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your walk and pick up your pet's waste. Once you pick up the waste, you may flush it down the toilet, bury it in the yard, or put it in the trash.

Pet Bathing

Another idea is to bathe pets indoors in a bathtub or sink using less toxic shampoos, or consider having your pet professionally groomed. Pet shampoos and soaps, even when biodegradable, can have toxic chemicals. Consider using less toxic alternatives such as oral or topical flea control products. If you do use flea control products such as shampoos, sprays or collars, please dispose of unwanted quantities properly.

Flea Dip Disposal

Do not pour flea dip solutions onto driveways or into the street. Liquid on hard surfaces will likely enter the storm drainage system and flow to a nearby creek. Flea dips usually contain an insecticide that can harm aquatic life. If you are applying an insecticide to your lawn for flea control, be sure that no rain is forecast for the next several days. Rain can wash the insecticide off your lawn and into the storm drainage system.

Solutions that contain **pyrethrins** as the active ingredient, and dipping solutions containing organophosphate chemicals such as **dursban, diazinon or malathion** cannot be disposed of in the sanitary sewer. The recommended disposal method for this solution is bringing it to a hazardous household collection event. **Do not pour dipping solutions and insecticides containing dursban, diazinon or malathion down the drains inside your house.**

Pet Waste FAQs

Q: I don't walk my dog near a creek or river. How does my dog's waste get there?

A: When it rains, pet waste and other pollutants (litter, oil, etc.) are carried into the storm drains, through pipes, and into the river system.

Q: Why doesn't the sewage treatment plant clean this water before it reaches the river?

A: Sewage treatment plants only process waste water from indoor plumbing. Sewage treatment plants do not treat rain water.

Q: Other animals such as squirrels, rabbits and birds already "use the facilities" outdoors as their bathroom. Why should I worry about my pet?

A: The waste from the large number of pets in our part of the country cannot be adequately or naturally absorbed into the environment.

Q: Should I pick up the pet waste in my own yard?

A: Yes, definitely. During a rain storm, this waste can get washed out of your yard, down a street or gulley and find its way into the stormwater system. In addition, when waste is not removed, it leaves a large quantity of nutrients that can burn out grasses by overfeeding them, creating a spotty looking yard. Pet waste can also attract rats – reason enough to keep your yard cleaned.

