

Storm Water Management Section

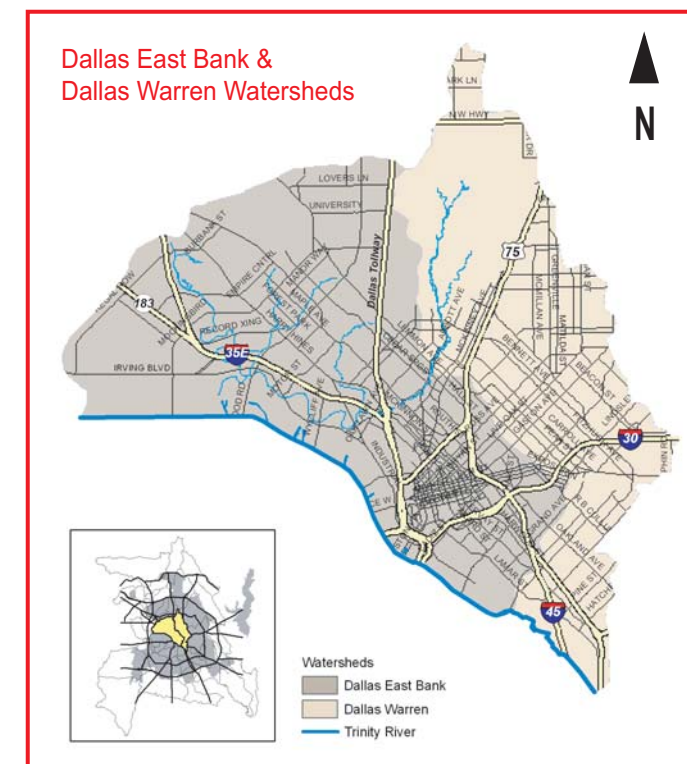
The Scoop on The Turtle Creek Area Watersheds

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common water body. All of Dallas is in the Trinity River Watershed, but the City of Dallas is divided into 38 smaller sub-watersheds. Since water flows downstream, everything that flows into a Dallas creek, stream, or lake will eventually end up in the Trinity River. The Trinity River is a water resource for Texans in and outside of Dallas. It is everybody's responsibility to protect our water resources, and that includes protecting our storm water.

The Dallas East Bank watershed is home to about 90,800 Dallas residents. Dallas East Bank includes the Downtown and Uptown areas, and Love Field Airport. Dallas Warren has about 121,700 residents calling it home. Lower Greenville, the Knox-Henderson area, and Highland Park and University Park are included in the Dallas Warren watershed.

These two watersheds are interesting in that they are affected by both business and residential uses. Businesses affect our watersheds because they cover the soil with impermeable surfaces like asphalt and concrete associated with buildings and parking lots. When it rains, the water cannot soak into the ground, so it runs off the paved surfaces and into a storm drain system. Any oil, trash, or debris on the parking lots and streets ends up in the storm drain system. Residents can also affect these two watersheds through the improper use of chemical lawn treatments, improper disposal of used oil, and illegal dumping of paint, leaves, and soap into the storm drain inlets.

Remember, **water that flows through the storm drain system is NOT treated at a wastewater treatment plant.** Water that flows through the storm drain system discharges directly into the nearest creek or lake. If the storm water run-off is carrying pollutants, those pollutants will also end up in the nearest creek or lake. We do not want to swim in polluted nor eat fish that live in polluted waters. The cost of cleaning the storm drain system and of cleaning our water is much more expensive than the cost of preventing pollutants from entering the storm drains. Do your part to protect our watersheds. Visit our websites www.wheredoesitgo.com and www.trinity-trudy.org for more information.



In the last issue of Storm Water Management's quarterly newsletter we talked about the Lower White Rock Creek watershed in East Dallas. For this issue, let's move westward and talk about two watersheds affecting the Turtle Creek area; the **Dallas East Bank** watershed and the **Dallas Warren** watershed.

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Public Works and Transportation
Storm Water Management
320 E. Jefferson Blvd., Room 108
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Don't Just Toss It!

Many people mistakenly believe storm drains flow to wastewater treatment plants, so they sweep debris or throw yard waste directly into storm drain inlets. However, the water in storm drains does not get treated before it flows directly into our waterways. So any litter in the storm drain system makes its way, along with the storm water, into area creeks, lakes, and rivers. This trash not only pollutes our waterways, but also ruins its beauty.

The following items have been found in waterways in our area: broken glass, car batteries, car parts, cans/bottles, cigarette butts, clothes, concrete rubble, egg shells, foam plastic pieces, food containers, grass clippings, leaves, magazines, milk cartons, newspapers, paint, paper bags, paper cups, plastics, plastic bags, plastic cups, rope, rubber, shopping carts, six-pack holders, sticks, straws, tires, wrappers, wood/lumber scraps, children's toys, balls, sofas/couches, chairs, refrigerators, stoves, computers, and shoes (information courtesy of the North Central Texas Council of Governments).

You can prevent trash in our waterways by putting it in its proper place. Don't toss litter into the street. Keep it until you can find a trashcan; or better yet, recycle it! You can get free blue recycling bags at Dallas recreation centers and libraries. **For more information on the City of Dallas Recycling Program call 214-670-4475 or dial 3-1-1.**

Littering in Texas can be reported by citizens at www.dontmesswithtexas.org. When dealing with trash, use the **4 R's**—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and React.



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If you would like us to make a presentation for your organization about storm water pollution prevention or permitting requirements, contact our Outreach Team at (214) 948-4022 and ask to speak with Denyse Jones, Helen Dulac, or Richard Smart.

The Spring Fling



Spring is the time for a fresh start. Spring cleaning for many includes getting rid of unwanted household chemicals, paints, oils and other toxic materials. However, to accomplish this task, proper disposal of clutter, trash, and household chemicals is vital. Pouring unwanted household chemicals and used oil down the storm drain inlets is not only bad for the environment, but it is also illegal. The storm drain system carries untreated water and pollutants directly to neighborhood creeks, then to the Trinity River. **Properly dispose of household chemicals at the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center (HCCC).** The HCCC accepts waste items such as batteries, pool supplies, aerosol sprays, lawn and garden chemicals, craft and hobby supplies, and automotive fluids.

FACT One quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of the Trinity River.

- Dallas County HCCC is located at 11234 Plano Road, Dallas, Texas 75234.
- Open Tuesdays 9am - 7:30pm; Wednesdays 8:30am-5:00pm; Thursdays 8:30-5:00 pm; and the second and fourth Saturdays of each month: 9:00am-7:30pm.
- Disposal at HCCC is free for residents of Carrollton, Dallas, DeSoto, Duncanville, Farmers Branch, Garland, Highland Park, Irving, Mesquite, Richardson, Rowlett, Sachse, Seagoville, University Park, and unincorporated areas of Dallas County. All others pay a minimum of \$95 waste management fee.
- Bring your driver's license and a utility bill for proof of residence. Call the friendly folks at the HCCC for more information: 214-553-1765.

FACT The average American throws away 3.5 pounds of trash a day.

Another way to reduce pollution from your home, keep the storm water clean, and save money is to use alternative cleaning products. Baking soda, vinegar, orange oil and organic and biodegradable products are safer than toxic cleaners. Baking soda is a mild abrasive and natural deodorizer. Vinegar cleans and disinfects bathrooms and kitchens, and shines windows. Orange oil is another all purpose cleaner, wood conditioner and fire ant control agent.

FACT Did you know recycling just one gallon of used oil can generate enough electricity to run the average household for almost 24 hours?

To reduce the amount of toxic chemicals in your home and garage:

- Buy cleaners and furniture polish labeled as non-toxic. Use small quantities of these chemicals and only buy the amount you need.
- Store all toxic products including cleaners, solvents and paints in tightly closed and labeled containers out of the reach of pets and children. If you don't use all of your paints and other chemical products, share them with neighbors or dispose of them at the HCCC.
- Rinse water based paint brushes in the sink. Filter and reuse paint thinner and brush cleaners. Drop off used thinner, oil and all unwanted paint at the HCCC.
- Use kitty litter to clean spills and fluids dripped from cars. Also dispose of the used kitty litter at the HCCC.
- Take used motor oil and antifreeze to oil service centers or the HCCC.
- Regularly maintain your vehicle to prevent oil, antifreeze and other fluid leaks.

In Dallas, you can avoid storm water pollution by throwing your trash away in a trash can with a tight fitting lid or recycling it. **The City of Dallas now accepts more recyclables:**

- Paper, including newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone books
- Cardboard and paperboard
- Food and beverage containers in all colors of glass
- Aluminum and metals cans
- Plastics #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #7

There is no need to separate your recyclables now. Place all items in blue or clear bags at the curb on trash day. For more information on City of Dallas recycling and pick up in your area, call 214-670-4475 or 311.

Make spring cleaning enjoyable by being organized, making it a family event, and playing upbeat music while you clean. As you clean your home, you can also keep the storm water clean by properly disposing of used oil, toxic materials and solid waste. **It goes with the flow, so keep it clean!**

Just for kids Storm Water Maze

Help the storm water flow safely (and cleanly) through the storm drain system, and into the Trinity River. Visit www.wheredoesitgo.com and www.trinity-trudy.org for more games and activities!

Upcoming Events:

April

- 5 - 14** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
Dallas World Trade Center
- 8** Sycamore - Dixon Trail Festival
Larry Johnson Recreation Center
- 21** Health Fair
Dallas Multipurpose Center
Environmental Protection Agency Earthfest
AT&T Plaza and Pegasus Plaza
Earth Day
Cottonwood Trail
- 22** Earth Day
DISD Environmental Center
- 24 - 28** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
Dallas INFOMART
- 27** Equipment & Building Services Environmental Fair
Dallas City Hall
- 29** North Dallas Neighborhood Alliance Safety Fair
North Central Police Station

May

- 1 - 15** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
Renner Frankford Library
- 5 - 6** Cinco de Mayo Festival
Pikes Park
- 6** Kids Environmental & Health Fair
Holy Cross Lutheran School
- 11** TPDES* Industrial Workshop
Dallas City Hall
- 13** Discovery Fest
The Science Place
- 22 - 31** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
Half Price Books @ Northwest Highway

June

- 1 - 9** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
Half Price Books @ Northwest Highway
- 10** Outdoor Venture
Dallas Museum of Natural History
- 15** TPDES* Construction Workshop
Dallas City Hall

June (cont.)

- 17** Backyard Pond
Texas Discovery Gardens
- 19-30** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit
The Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park



* Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

For more information call 214-948-4022 and ask to speak with an Outreach Coordinator.

April Showers Bring May Flowers but not if your fertilizer is washed away

Many Dallas residents believe that they should apply fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides to their lawn just before it rains. They believe that the rainwater will "soak in" the chemicals they just applied; however, this is not true. These well-meaning Dallasites are throwing their money down the storm drain, and polluting our creeks and lakes.

Rainwater does soak into the ground, but the ground can only absorb so much every minute. Whatever the ground cannot absorb will turn into storm water runoff. This runoff will collect whatever it flows over. And if you happen to have fertilizer on your yard, then the storm water will pick it up and carry it into the storm drain system. This is bad for your pocketbook, and it is bad for the environment. Remember, the storm drain inlets along the side of the road do NOT lead to the wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains carry their water and dump it directly into the nearest creek, river, or lake. In Dallas, the Trinity River receives water from storm drains, and from all creeks in Dallas.

Having fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in a river or lake is very unhealthy. These chemicals pollute the water, making it more difficult for fish, frogs, insects, birds, and other animals to survive in or near the water. People are affected by not having clean water for swimming, fishing, or boating. We do have water treatment plants to give us clean drinking water, but it is much more expensive to clean polluted water than it is to prevent the water from getting polluted in the first place.

Do your part this spring to protect our environment by never applying herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers to your yard right before it rains. When you apply any type of lawn care product, whether it is organic or synthetic, make sure you follow the manufacturer's directions. And please consider choosing organic options which are less hazardous to the environment. Have fun landscaping this spring, and remember **"it goes with the flow, so keep it clean!"**