

City of Lawton STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Issue 15, October - December 2016

Pool Discharge

As you start closing down your pools, it is important to use best management practice to ensure that you are draining your pools in a way that is environmentally friendly. When chlorinated water enters the environment, the chemicals in the water can be toxic to wildlife, and can make wildlife sick.

To prevent this, always test your pool water to make sure it is dechlorinated before draining your pool. The water's pH level should be between 6.5 and 8.5. Discharge the dechlorinated water across gravel or grass if at all possible. This allows the water to be filtered before entering storm drains. Never allow water that you are discharging to flow onto another person's property without first getting permission. Also, never clean pool filters in the street, or where the runoff water can enter storm drains.



For more information regarding pool maintenance and discharge, call the Stormwater Management Office for the City of Lawton at (580) 581-3478.

Pet Waste

When it rains, stormwater runoff carries pollutants that are on the ground to storm drains, which carry that polluted water to local creeks. One source of stormwater pollution is pet waste that is left on the ground and washed away by rain. Once pet waste is in the creek, it has many adverse affects. First, the waste can carry a host of harmful bacteria and parasites that can harm both wildlife and humans with diseases such as Salmonella, Giardia, and Campylobacter. Also, the bacteria within the waste consume oxygen within the water, taking away from the wildlife, and can suffocate fish by reducing the amount of oxygen available to them.

To prevent this pollution, make sure that you always pick up your pets waste. Utilize scoopers to make pet waste less strenuous and more sanitary. Pet waste should either be thrown away in a trash receptacle, or flushed down the toilet. You should not add pet waste to compost piles, as it will not get hot enough to kill disease causing organisms. Additionally, to make a bigger difference in your community, inform other pet owners of the dangers of water pollution by pet waste and tell them how to help lessen the effects.



DON'T FORGET!

Daylight Saving Time ends

FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER

Fats Oils and Grease

When homeowners dump fats, oils, and grease down their home drains, they are inadvertently contributing to stormwater pollution. When these substances, known as FOGs, are discharged into sewage drains, they coat drainage pipes and cause build up. Once there is enough build up of FOGs, a blockage can occur, and sewage backs up onto streets. Once in streets, sewage can enter storm drains, which carry that sewage to area creeks. The effects of this can be very damaging to the environment and to wildlife. Once exposed to creeks, sewage can cause death and illness in wildlife. The harmful bacteria use up oxygen within the creek leaving less for wildlife. Additionally, the nitrogen and phosphorus within the sewage promote the growth of toxic algae blooms and the sewage makes the creeks unsafe for recreational purposes such as swimming or fishing.

There are a few things homeowners can do to prevent this pollution. First and foremost, never dump fats, oils, or grease down your home drains. Instead, store them in a sealed container with a substance like cat litter or coffee grounds, and then throw the container away when it is full. Also, wipe plates and silverware that have any FOG residue on them with a paper towel before washing them in your sink

Stormy's Tidbits:

Stormy's Tips for Clean Stormwater during the Holidays:

- As the seasons change and it gets colder outside, still make sure you are picking up your pet's waste frequently. Scoop the poop so you don't pollute
- When making holiday meals such as turkey and roast, never dispose of excess grease or oil in your sink. Keep them in a sealed container, and dispose of the container once it is full.
- If you find yourself cleaning your house in preparation for guests, make sure to never dispose of chemicals and cleaners in storm drains. Share them with neighbors and friends, or dispose of them at Trash Off, which is held in April



STORMWATER CONTACT INFORMATION

212 SW 9th Street • Lawton, OK 73501
(580)581-3478 Office • **(580)581-3565 Hotline**

Environmental Specialist – Cynthia Williams,
Cywilliams@cityof.lawton.ok.us

Stormwater Inspector – Troy Brandon,
tbrandon@cityof.lawton.ok.us

Engineering Associate – Mike Hawkins,
mhawkins@cityof.lawton.ok.us

Vector Technician – George Farris
GFarris@cityof.lawton.ok.us



*From the City of Lawton
Stormwater Management*

Flood Response and Stormwater Pollution Hotline (580) 581-3565

Stormwater management has a 24-hour hotline for reporting flood damage and stormwater pollution. Leave a message with your name, contact number, address and concern. Staff members will follow up on the call as soon as possible. The City will collect information to assess the magnitude and impact of the event.