

# Stormwater Pollution Solutions

## Lawn care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.



- ❖ Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- ❖ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- ❖ Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- ❖ Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

## Pet waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.



- ❖ When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Lack of vegetation on streambanks can lead to erosion. Overgrazed pastures can also contribute excessive amounts of sediment to local waterbodies. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can poison aquatic animals and lead to destructive algae blooms. Livestock in streams can contaminate waterways with bacteria, making them unsafe for human contact.



- ❖ Keep livestock away from streambanks and provide them a water source away from waterbodies.
- ❖ Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management plan.
- ❖ Vegetate riparian areas along waterways. Rotate animal grazing to prevent soil erosion in fields.
- ❖ Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.



**To report a drainage problem  
please contact:**

**Caddo Parish  
Public Works Department  
505 Travis Street Suite 820**

Phone: 318-226-6931

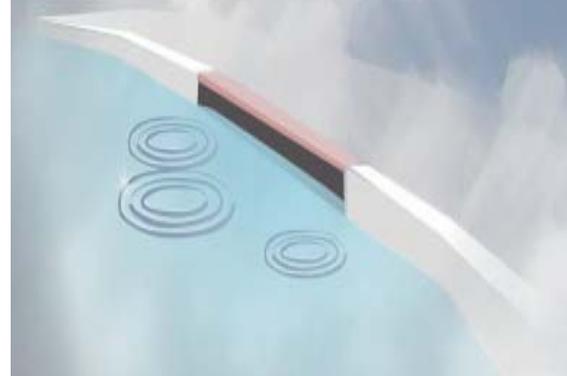
E-mail [stormwater@caddo.org](mailto:stormwater@caddo.org)

Or visit

[http://www.caddo.org/storm\\_management.cfm](http://www.caddo.org/storm_management.cfm)



# After the Storm



*A Citizen's Guide to  
Understanding Stormwater*

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent Stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



## Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

### Septic systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.



- ❖ Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).
- ❖ Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

*Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't*

## The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ❖ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.



- ❖ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- ❖ Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

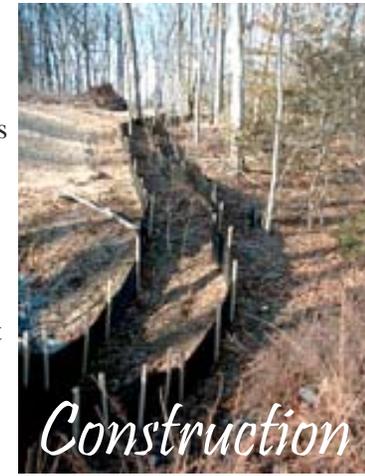
- ❖ Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

- ❖ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

- ❖ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.



Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local waterbodies.



- ❖ Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
- ❖ Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls especially after rainstorms.

Dirt, oil, and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer system and eventually enter local waterbodies.



- ❖ Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
- ❖ Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.
- ❖ Report any chemical spill to the local hazardous waste cleanup team (DEQ). They'll know the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

***Storm drains connect to waterbodies!***