

## County of Nueces – Department of Public Works



Nueces County Department of Public Works  
(361) 888-0490

901 Leopard, Suite 103 Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
[www.co.nueces.tx.us/pw/](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us/pw/)

### In this newsletter...

- Stormwater Basics
- Pollution Prevention

Stormwater management plays an important part in keeping pollutants from entering water bodies in Nueces County, including Nueces River, Oso Creek, Oso Bay, and Corpus Christi Bay. As a starting point for managing stormwater runoff, Nueces County has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The SWMP calls for Nueces County to encourage public involvement and participation in regional stormwater issues. This newsletter is intended to reach out to the public and offer an opportunity for citizens to provide input on stormwater issues in their area. After reading this newsletter, please contact the Nueces County Public Works Department with any comments or questions you may have on stormwater issues.

## Stormwater Basics

### Introduction

Stormwater runoff results when precipitation flows across the ground and pavement. Runoff can be absorbed into the ground, flow into storm drains that lead to water bodies, or drain directly into water bodies. Management of stormwater is a challenging task and involves understanding the conveyances that allow stormwater to reach water bodies. Within the County, there is a system of roads, basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, channels, and storm drains that is collectively known as a small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Stormwater is conveyed through the MS4 and eventually flows into nearby water bodies. In Nueces County, these include Nueces River, Nueces Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, Oso Creek, Oso Bay, and many smaller creeks and streams.

### Stormwater Pollutants



As stormwater flows through the MS4, debris and particles containing pollutants can be swept along. Pollutants caught up in stormwater runoff can include oil, grease, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, animal waste, metals, and sediment. Eventually, these pollutants can reach the creeks, rivers, and bays of Nueces County. Fish and other aquatic species can be negatively affected when the water bodies that they live in receive polluted runoff. The polluted water bodies can also adversely affect animals that rely on them as a source of drinking water. Humans can be negatively affected when they use these polluted water bodies for recreation. For communities that use surface water bodies as a source of drinking water, it can also create additional difficulties and costs associated with purifying the water.

Stormwater  
Debris



Stormwater also sweeps away debris and trash that is in its path. This can include plastic items such as cups, straws, bags, bottles, six pack rings, and paper items such as fast food containers and newspapers. Accumulated tree trimmings and yard clippings can be caught up in the stormwater runoff, or may even prohibit or restrict efficient drainage, which may lead to localized flooding.

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Introduction



There are many simple things that can be done to prevent pollution from entering nearby creeks, rivers, and bays. By using good housekeeping practices at home and at work, the amount of pollution caught up in stormwater runoff can be decreased substantially.

Good  
Housekeeping  
Practices



Some simple ways to prevent pollution from entering water bodies include:

- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste
- Properly dispose of used oil and paint
- Wipe the lids of containers once finished using and before storing outdoors
- Make sure the lid is closed on trash cans and dumpsters
- Use proper amounts of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides
- Store containers of items such as oil and paint in covered areas
- Do not put anything, including grass clippings, down storm drains
- Fix leaking vehicles or place drip catch pans underneath
- Properly dispose of scrap metal
- Plant appropriate vegetation to prevent sediment from being washed away during rain storms
- Ensure septic systems are maintained and working properly
- Tell friends and family about the effects of pollutants on creeks, rivers, and bays and encourage them to use these simple good housekeeping practices

Please contact Glen R. Sullivan, P.E., Director of Public Works at (361) 888-0490 regarding questions, comments, and requests for additional information.