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Stormwater Management Plan

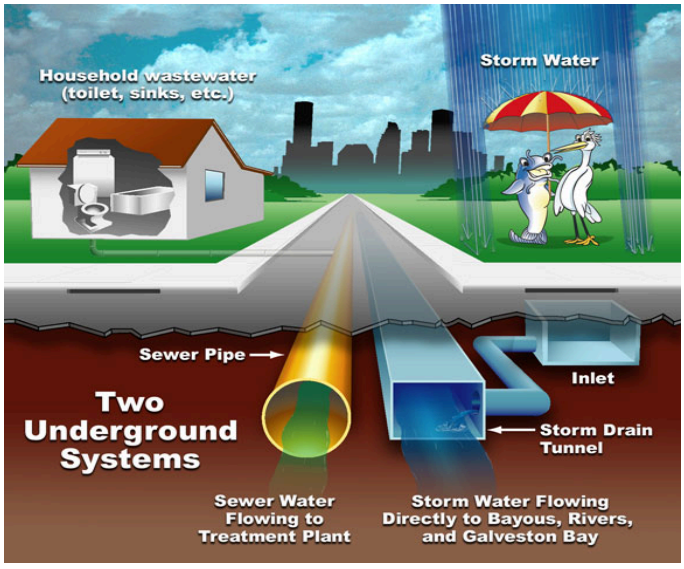
Background

According to the EPA, stormwater pollution is the number one cause of water pollution in the country. Automotive chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, soil erosion and sedimentation all contribute to water pollution. In 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency established the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). As a Non Standard MS4 permittee, TSD has identified outfalls and inlets that could be impacted by pollutants entering the stormwater system, as required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Our stormwater Management Program includes six specific elements:

- Public Education and Outreach about Stormwater
- Public Participation/Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

What is stormwater and stormwater runoff?

Stormwater originates from any storm event including rain, hail, and snow. Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation flows over impervious (paved) surfaces. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. The stormwater flows into storm sewer inlets located on and around school properties.



Why should I be concerned about stormwater?

As stormwater travels over impervious surfaces it can collect pollutants. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, and sediment on the ground, which then enter lakes, streams, creeks and rivers via the connection of municipal storm sewer systems. Thus, anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged into untreated bodies of water that we use for recreation and drinking water supplies.

It is important that we protect water quality in our community!

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How do pollutants impact our environment?

- Dirt and sediment cloud water supplies and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow.
- Excess nutrients from fertilizers can cause algal blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose, removing oxygen from the water.
- Low oxygen levels can kill fish and decrease the ability for aquatic organisms to exist.
- Bacteria from pet and wildlife waste can cause illness when these bacteria enter the water supply.
- High levels of bacteria can make people sick and result in the closure of recreational areas.
- Trash and debris, such as 6 pack rings, can be washed into water supplies and choke or suffocate aquatic wildlife.
- Toxins in litter, such as cigarette butts, can kill fish and birds.
- Decaying litter can reduce oxygen levels and kill aquatic animals and plants.
- Hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil can poison aquatic life. These chemicals can cause people to become sick or die from eating diseased fish.
- Many detergents contain phosphates. The chemical compounds cause an increase in plant (algae) growth in waters.
- Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol. This substance can harm the kidneys in animals and humans. Just ¼ to 2 ounces of this substance can be lethal to cats and dogs.

Ways to keep pollutants from entering the stormwater system

- Put trash in trash cans and secure the lids after use.
- Sweep up litter, leaves, and debris from paved surfaces.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash.
- Never dump chemicals or trash into storm drains.
- Repair auto leaks.
- Recycle oil, antifreeze and other fluids at approved locations.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions and prevent runoff to storm drains.
- Avoid over-watering after application of chemicals.
- Report spills, illegal dumping or suspicious substances near storm drains immediately to the Facilities Department at 970-613-5350. For after-hours concerns, call (970) 613-5010.

REMEMBER – ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!