

# KEEP OUR STREAMS AND RIVERS CLEAN



The City of Lawrence storm sewer system consists of street curbs, curb inlets, surface drains and ditches. Stormwater runoff is from rainfall and snow melt that flows over the ground and enters this system. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. It is then discharged directly into our streams and rivers without prior treatment.

Throughout the year there are a few things everyone can do to ensure that the stormwater runoff leaving their property is clean.

- All yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings, needs to be properly disposed of. Yard waste that is blown out into the street or into ditches or streams can cause localized flooding by clogging the storm drain system. It can also add pollutants to receiving streams and rivers.
- If you are going to apply fertilizers or pesticides to your lawn or gardens, be sure to follow all product instructions. Fertilizers contain large amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen which depletes oxygen in water, resulting in fish kills. Pesticides contain toxic materials that are harmful to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants.

- Do you own a pet? Be sure to clean up your pet's waste. Pet waste is considered raw sewage. Allowing it to enter our waterways releases both potentially harmful bacteria and oxygen-consuming materials. Dispose of pet wastes by flushing them down the toilet or by bagging and placing them in the trash for regular collection.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Any automotive fluids such as oil or antifreeze can pollute our streams and rivers. Oil can damage or kill underwater vegetation and aquatic life, and antifreeze, which is composed primarily of a poisonous compound called ethylene glycol, can kill pets, fish and other wildlife. If you notice a leak, be sure to use a drying agent to clean it up, and then have your vehicle serviced to fix the leak.

For more information visit:  
[lawrenceks.org/public\\_works/  
stormwater](http://lawrenceks.org/public_works/stormwater)  
or call (785) 832-3136.



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