



## Everyday Actions of Dallasites Can Help or Hurt Our Watershed

Dallas is the 9th Largest City in the United States with 1,210,390 people living within the city limits. Residents of Dallas are very diverse, but one thing we all have in common is that we live in the **Trinity River Watershed**. In Dallas, all of the creeks and lakes eventually make their way to the Trinity River. If people are not careful a lot of pollution can also make its way to the Trinity River.

There are 38 Trinity River sub-watersheds in Dallas. The **Upper Five Mile Creek** sub-watershed is a good example of a Dallas area with a large residential population - 132,105 people. The everyday actions of the residents in Upper Five Mile Creek are like the actions in Dallas' other sub-watersheds.

**Nonpoint source pollution** is pollution that does not come from a single source; it comes from many sources. In the case of a neighborhood, pollution is coming from the everyday actions of the people living in that area.

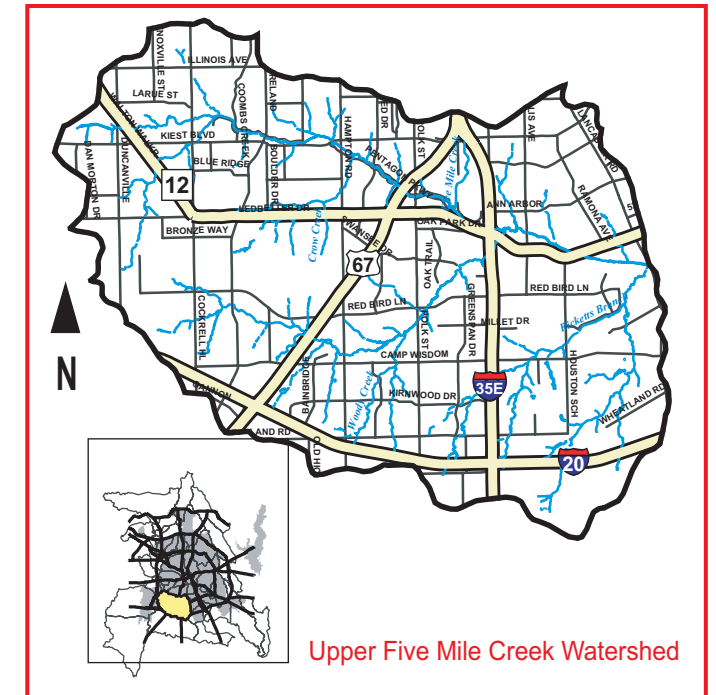
How many people live in your neighborhood? Most of us have hundreds of people living in our neighborhood. The combined everyday actions of hundreds of people can cause significant problems. On the flipside, the combined everyday actions of people can also prevent problems.

Remember, **storm water from our neighborhoods enters the storm drainage system through storm drain inlets and discharges directly into a local creek, pond, or lake, without being cleaned or treated.** Below is a list of several ways that residents of Upper Five Mile Creek and all Dallas residents can do to prevent pollution from entering our environment.

**Lawn chemical application:** Always follow the manufacturer's directions so you do not over-apply. Check the weather forecast before applying; do not apply lawn chemicals 24-hours before a rain event or on a windy day.

**Yard Waste:** Sweep grass clippings and leaves off sidewalks, driveways, and streets and place that waste back on your lawn where it acts as a natural fertilizer.

**Car Washing:** Washing your car at home with soapy water sends soap down the storm drain inlet. Use a sponge and water only to clean your car, or take your car to a commercial car wash since their drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system.



Upper Five Mile Creek Watershed

**Pet Waste:** When walking your dog, Dallas code states that owners must pick up their pet's waste. Use a plastic bag or newspaper wrap to pickup the pet waste, and throw it away in a trash can or flush it down the toilet.

Many of the pollutants that come from our neighborhoods can be toxic, and aquatic plants and animals can be harmed as these toxins enter their habitat. Humans are impacted because we may lose out on recreational opportunities if our water bodies become polluted. The more pollution we introduce, the longer it takes us to clean and restore our water bodies.

By preventing storm water pollution, we will protect our environment for present and future generations. **It goes with the flow...so keep it clean!** Please visit [www.wheredoesitgo.com](http://www.wheredoesitgo.com) and [www.trinity-trudy.org](http://www.trinity-trudy.org) for more information on storm water pollution prevention.

### In this issue:

Keep Your Soil Where It Belongs	2	Upcoming Events	3
Just for Kids	2	Keep Paint Out of Creeks	4
Organic Recipes for Plants	3	Contact Us	4

Affix Address Label Here

Public Works and Transportation  
Storm Water Management  
320 E. Jefferson Blvd., Room 108  
Dallas, Texas 75203

### Keep Paint Out of Our Creeks



Summer is the perfect time for do-it-yourselfers to update their home with a fresh coat of paint. Home improvement programs on TV recommend painting as a quick and inexpensive way to update or change any room in your home. What the TV shows don't tell you is how to properly dispose of leftover paint and thinners. **Pouring leftover paint down the storm drain inlet is harmful for the environment and is illegal.** Storm drain inlets carry rain water and pollutants through the storm drain system directly to the nearest creek, lake or river, not to a wastewater treatment plant. Since paints and thinners are toxic, they cause lots of problems in the environment. Try to share extra paint with neighbors, friends, or community groups.

**If you must dispose of paint, take it to the Home Chemical Collection Center (HC3) in North Dallas.** City of Dallas residents and Dallas County residents can take paints, solvents, thinners, home repair products, and many other chemical products to the HC3 **free of charge.**

**Home Chemical Collection Center**  
11234 Plano Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

Call 214-553-1765 for hours and more information.



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If you would like us to make a presentation for your organization about storm water pollution prevention or permitting requirements, contact our Outreach Team at (214) 948-4022 and ask to speak with Denyse Jones, Helen Dulac, or Richard Smart.

# Keep Your Soil Where It Belongs



When was the last time you actually stopped and thought about the soil that lies beneath all the lawns, buildings, houses, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and streets in Dallas? Most of us hardly think about it at all. However, our soil merits more attention than we give it because it can pollute our waterways.

Exposed soil (soil without vegetation to anchor it or buildings or pavement to cover it) is at risk for erosion from storm water. When it rains, any loose soil (sediment) can be carried with the storm water to the nearest storm drain inlet. These inlets lead to the storm drain system which discharges storm water into the nearest creek, river, or lake without being cleaned or treated. So, any soil that is carried away with the storm water eventually is deposited in the storm drain system, reducing its capacity and causing flooding. The storm water and soil will then be discharged into our waterways.

Soil can cause all kinds of problems after it enters a waterway. It can interfere with sunlight penetration; and without sunlight, aquatic plants cannot perform photosynthesis. Soil particles can clog or cut the gills of fish, decreasing the animals' ability to breathe. A severe sediment load in a water body could prevent the ability of aquatic animals to find food and hide from predators.

Here are a few simple things you as a Dallas citizen can do to reduce the amount of pollution from soil in our waterways. Avoid parking or driving across vegetated areas like your lawn. These activities can damage your lawn, leaving the soil beneath unprotected and prone to erosion. In addition, make sure to maintain vegetation on areas of your property not covered by pavement or a structure. The utilization of native plants for vegetative cover not only prevents soil erosion but also reduces the amount of lawn chemicals and water needed to upkeep the plants. If you see excessive amounts of sediment in the street, along a gutter, or in a storm drain inlet, call the City's non-emergency hotline at **311** to report the violation. With just a little effort from everyone, we can keep our soil where it belongs and out of our waterways.

## Recipes to Help Your Plants and Your Environment

We can prevent storm water pollution by properly using herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Always follow the manufacturer's directions when you use synthetic lawn chemicals. Using organic products is another option to treat your yard. You can purchase organic products (still follow the manufacturer's directions) or you may make your own. Remember, natural products can also be sources of pollution if not used properly. Below are some organic lawn care recipes from **Howard Garret's** website [www.dirtdoctor.com](http://www.dirtdoctor.com).

### Garlic Pepper Tea Insecticide:

<b>Ingredients:</b>	<b>Tools:</b>
2 Bulbs of garlic	Blender
2 Hot peppers	Strainer
1 Gallon of water	Measuring cup
	Gallon jug
	Spray bottle



- Pour water into your blender until it is 1/2 to 2/3 full of water.
- Add the garlic and hot peppers to the blender.
- Liquefy the garlic and peppers in the blender.
- Strain the solids out.
- Pour the blender mixture into a gallon jug.
- Add water to the jug until it is full.
- Transfer 1/4 cup of the concentrate per gallon of spray into a spray bottle.
- Spray on foliage that is being eaten by insects.

### Baking Soda Fungicide:

<b>Ingredients:</b>	<b>Tools:</b>
4 Teaspoons of baking soda	Teaspoon & tablespoon
1 Tablespoon of molasses	Gallon jug
1 Gallon of water	Mixing spoon
*Citrus oil or horticultural oil	Spray bottle

may be substituted for molasses

- Fill a gallon jug full of water.
- Add the baking soda and molasses to the water.
- Mix the ingredients together until blended.
- Transfer into a spray bottle.
- Spray lightly on plants afflicted with black spots, powdery mildew, brown patches, and other fungal diseases.

### Compost Tea Fertilizer:

<b>Ingredients:</b>	<b>Tools:</b>
2 cups of cider vinegar	Measuring cup
2 cups of liquefied seaweed	Gallon jug
2 cups of blackstrap molasses	Mixing spoon
1 gallon of water	Spray bottle

- Fill a gallon jug with water.
- Add the vinegar, seaweed, and molasses to the water.
- Mix the ingredients together until blended.
- Transfer 1.5 cups of the concentrate per gallon spray into a spray bottle.
- Add water to the concentrate in the spray bottle.
- Spray on the soil around the base of the plant.

## Upcoming Events:

### July

- 1 - 14** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit  
The Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park
- 20** TPDES\* Industrial Workshop  
Dallas City Hall
- 24 - 31** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit  
Arcadia Park Dallas Public Library
- 31** Story Time, *All The Way to the Ocean*  
Arcadia Park Dallas Public Library

### August

- 1 - 4** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit  
Arcadia Park Dallas Public Library
- 3** Mayor's Back to School Fair  
Fair Park
- 24** TPDES\* Construction Workshop  
Dallas City Hall

### September

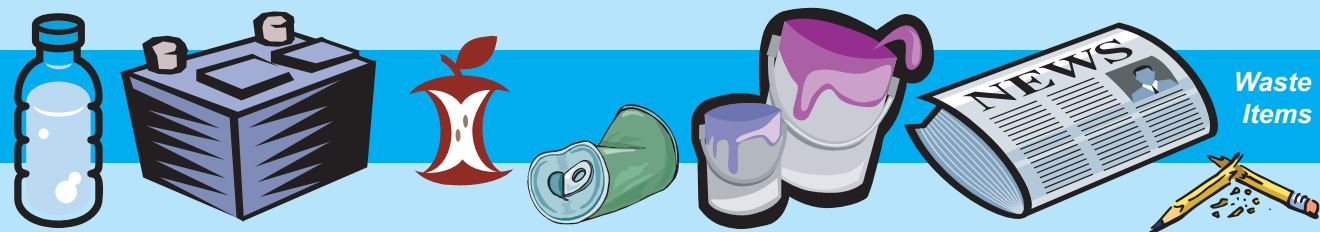
- 1 - 14** Storm Water Management Traveling Exhibit  
Audelia Road Dallas Public Library
- 12** Story Time, *All The Way to the Ocean*  
Audelia Road Dallas Public Library
- 23** Districts 1 & 3 Townhall Meeting  
Dallas Zoo

\* Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

For more information call 214-948-4022 and ask to speak with an Outreach Coordinator.

## Just for kids .....

Prevent waste from going down the storm drain inlet. Draw a line connecting each waste item to the proper disposal site. Does it belong in the trash can, recycle bin, or the Home Chemical Collection Center (HC3)? *Answers are below.*




Waste Items



Disposal Sites

ANSWERS: Trash Can: apple, pencil; Recycle Bin: soda can, newspaper, plastic bottle; HC3: paint, car battery

Visit [www.wheredoesitgo.com](http://www.wheredoesitgo.com) and [www.trinity-trudy.org](http://www.trinity-trudy.org) for more games and activities!



## Volunteer With Us!

You can do even more to protect our storm water by participating in our volunteer opportunities. **Texas Watch** is a volunteer water monitoring program, and **Storm Drain Marking** allows participants to label storm drains with a message aimed at reducing storm water pollution. Contact the Outreach Team at 214-948-4022 for more information.

**TO REPORT POLLUTERS AND VIOLATIONS – CALL 311!**