Resources

Take pride in protecting Lawrence's water quality and help prevent pollutants from entering our stormwater drainage system. By changing some of our personal habits, we can help maintain the quality of life in our watershed and lessen impacts downstream. Use the resources below to dispose of unwanted materials and products properly.

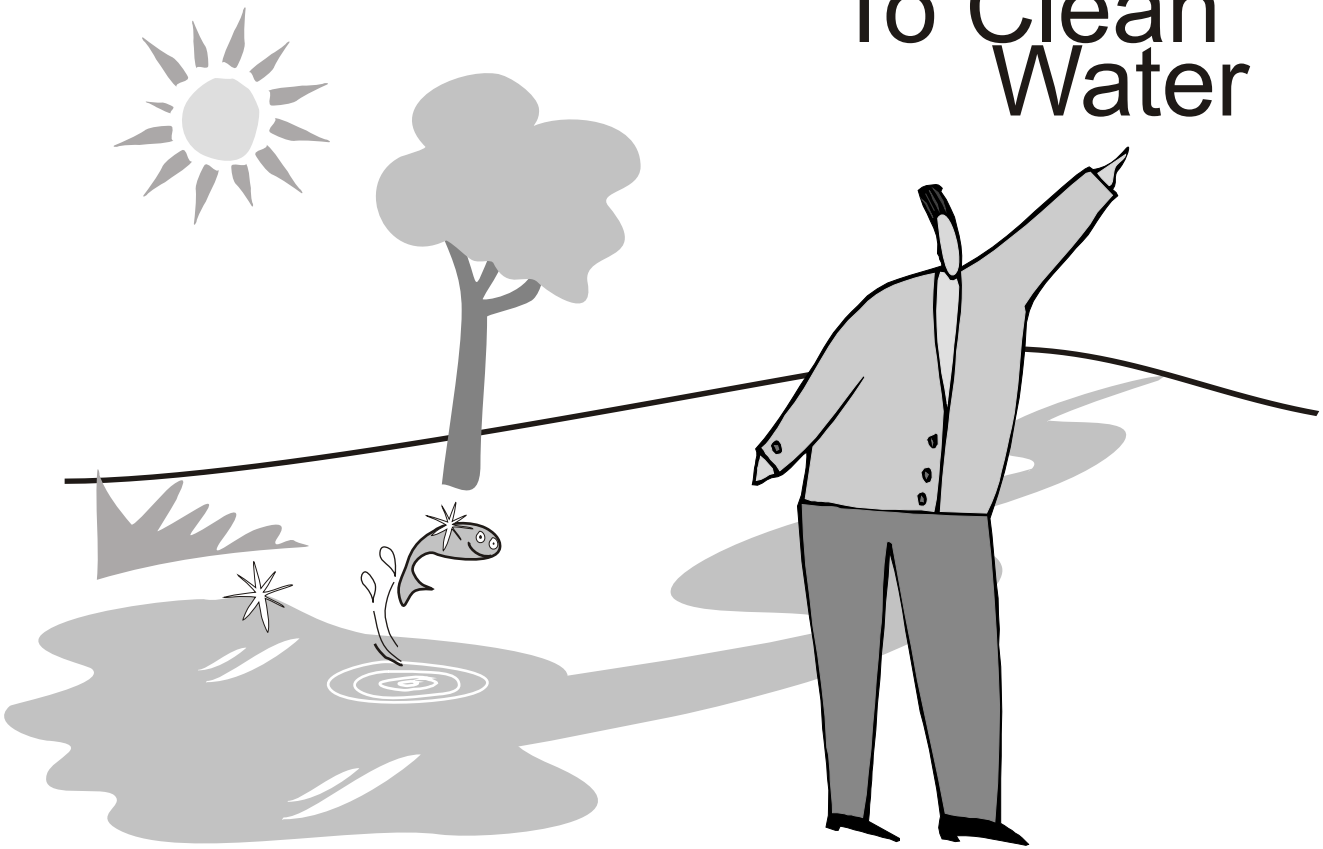
Solid Waste Division
832-3022
Trash is collected once a week from Lawrence residents. Citywide curbside collection of grass and leaves for composting is on Mondays starting at 6 a.m. March through mid-December.

Forestry Division
832-7979
Woody Debris Drop-Off Service, located at 1110 Haskell Avenue, is in operation from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from mid April to mid November. $5.00 per load.

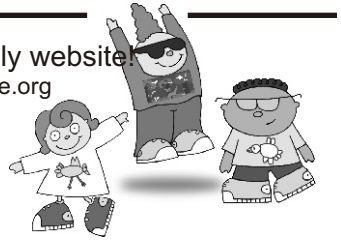
Waste Reduction And Recycling Division
832-3030
Information and materials on Backyard Composting, Grasscycling, Toxics Reduction Strategies, Waste Prevention, and Recycling. Call for your free copies or you can also download these fact sheets from our website at www.LawrenceRecycles.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Program
832-3030
The City of Lawrence/Douglas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is accepting hazardous waste from Douglas County households throughout the year by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call 832-3030 to schedule a drop-off appointment for any unwanted paint, pesticides, cleaners, automotive products and more.

Guide To Clean Water



Check out our kids only website!
www.LawrenceKidsRecycle.org



Lawrence has a lot to offer.
Let's keep it that way!
Check us out at: www.LawrenceRecycles.org

City *of* Lawrence
PUBLIC WORKS
WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

More information at:
www.LawrenceRecycles.org

Revised 06/10

Understanding and Solving Our Stormwater Pollution Problem

Where Does Stormwater Go?

Stormwater, laden with silt, pollutants, garbage and debris eventually empties directly into either the Kansas River or the Wakarusa River. But let's back upstream a bit….

We all know water flows downhill. Depending on your address in Lawrence, you live in one of 17 watersheds within our city limits. Surface water runoff from each of these watersheds pass through both man-made and natural landscapes (stormdrains, streets, drainage ditches, creeks, and streambeds) eventually discharging into the Kansas or Wakarusa River systems.

How Do Pollutants Find Their Way into Our City's Storm Drains and Creeks?

There are two primary ways in which pollutants enter our city's waterways:

1) **Stormwater:** Stormwater is the runoff created by rain and snowmelt that is no longer able to be saturated in the ground and is swept into one of the 7,500 storm drains in Lawrence.
Our stormwater encompasses all the water that flows from our driveways, yards, roofs, roads, construction sites and parking lots. As it flows, gathering speed and volume, stormwater collects debris, soil, garbage, pet waste, and hazardous wastes and is eventually channeled into the stormdrain.

2) **Improper Dumping:** Improper disposal of yard debris, motor oil, antifreeze, fuel, pet wastes, and litter into our stormdrains is a major source of pollution. The misuse of pesticides and overuse of fertilizers also contaminate our water.

Stormwater Pollution Problems

Stormwater pollution problems are complex because the potential pollution sources are so variable and diverse. To improve and protect our water quality it helps to understand the issues. In order to solve the problem each of us will have to shoulder the responsibility.

Yard Wastes

Leaves and grass clippings allow bacterial, oxygen-consuming materials, phosphorus, and nitrogen to be released into our waterways. Yard wastes can also clog storm drains, making them ineffective and causing local flooding. Don't rake yard debris into the street or stormdrain use the City's curbside yard waste collection program, and self haul limbs to the City's chipping facility. Consider composting or grasscycling your grass and leaf waste.

Pet Wastes

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 placing them in the trash for regular collection.

Erosion

Soil that erodes from yards and construction sites increases the sediment load in waterways, blocking sunlight essential for aquatic plants, fish and animals. Plant grasses and legumes to hold soil until trees and shrubs become established. Use mulch or other netting on steep banks and slopes. Leave natural vegetation buffers along ditches, streams and runoff channels.

Hazardous Materials

Motor Oil can damage or kill underwater vegetation and aquatic life.

Antifreeze is composed of primarily ethylene glycol, a sweet and poisonous compound which can kill pets, fish and other wildlife.

Paint and paint rinse water can contain lead, mercury and organic solvents, all of which can negatively impact the environment. Never rinse painting equipment where the rinse water can run into the storm drain.

Fertilizers contain large amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen which deplete oxygen in water, resulting in fish kills.

Pesticides contain toxic materials that are harmful to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. Do not overuse fertilizers or misuse pesticides.