Dear Watershed Resident:

Volunteers from Blue Thumb, 4-H, and other organizations are attaching messages like these to neighborhood storm drain inlets and curbs.



Storm water runoff (rain and snowmelt) that enters these drains flows to creeks, the rivers, and lakes. The storm water may contain pollutants as complex as man-made chemicals or as simple as dirt (sediment). Pollutants directly impact fish and wildlife, as well as drinking water for downstream communities. The "No Dumping" messages remind us to protect neighborhood springs and creeks from point and nonpoint source pollution.

What is Point & Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Polluted water exiting a sewage treatment plant or a pipe at a factory is an example of **point source pollution**.

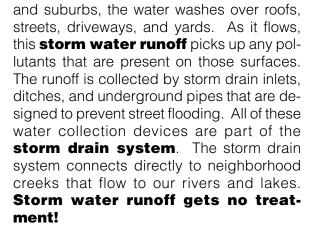
Nonpoint source pollution (NPS), on the other hand, refers to pollutants that are washed off the land. NPS comes from many places, not just a single point. Incorrectly applied pesticides and excess fertilizer that are carried off neighborhood lawns during a rainstorm would be one example. Other types of NPS include:

Examples of NPS Pollutants:

sediment pesticide litter (trash)
gasoline paint paint thinner
fertilizer soap pet waste
antifreeze motor oil grass clippings

What Ends Up in the River?

Most homes in our larger towns are served by two kinds of sewer systems:



When rain falls or snow melts on our towns

Storm Drain System

storm sewers (the storm drain system) and sanitary sewers.
Water moves through both systems to our streams, but there is a major difference between the two.

Read on to find out what it is!

Sanitary Sewer System

W DUMP/NU WASTE

Storm Drain

Water from your sink, bathtub, and toilet travels through underground pipes to a **wastewater treatment plant**. After it is treated to remove pollutants, it is released to a stream.

Help Keep Our Streams and Lakes Clean:

- Recycle oil, antifreeze, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, paint, and other household pollutants. Call the Solid Waste Institute for details.
- Test your lawn and garden soil and follow OSU fertilizer application recommendations. Call County OSU Extension for details.
- Carefully follow label instructions when applying pesticides and disposing of the containers.
- Report illegal dumping incidents to the OK Dept. of Environmental Quality Hotline, 1-800-522-0206.
- Report sediment runoff (muddy water in the street) to your local Public Works or Mayor's Office. Sediment is the #1 creek pollutant!
- Maintain your car to prevent oil and other fluids from leaking.
- Use eco-friendly products & tech-niques for lawn & garden manage-ment and household cleaning. Call County OSU Extension for help.
- Reduce litter through education and volunteer cleanups. Call the Solid Waste Institute and OK Scenic Rivers Comm. for help.
- Clean up after your pets. Pet waste adds fecal bacteria and fertilizer to storm water runoff.

Volunteers may be marking storm drains in your neighborhood as part of a project to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality aware-ness. They ask you to view your lawns, driveways, storm drains, and bar ditches as the banks of the nearest creek or river.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

OK Blue Thumb Volunteer Water Quality Projects: 918-280-1598

Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission: 918-456-3251

Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma: 918-456-0116

Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Adair Co.: 918-696-7612 Cherokee Co.: 918-456-1919 Delaware Co.: 918-253-8550

OSU Cooperative Extension Service:

Adair Co.: 918-696-2253 Cherokee Co.: 918-456-6163 Delaware Co. 918-253-4332

A publication of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, funded by EPA 319(h) Task 500, the Illinois Rive Education Program.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edwin L. Miller, Interim Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 42 cents per copy, 0405.

Give Our Green Country a Hand



Help Prevent Urban Storm Water Pollution

L-317



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with Oklahoma Blue Thumb Project Oklahoma Conservation Commission and

Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission