

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater pollution is the contaminated water that drains from the streets into the storm drain system. These pollutants are carried into the drains from rain storms, garden hoses, or sprinklers. The runoff eventually drains into the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado. Much of the stormwater pollution is not biodegradable and can be harmful to marine life.

The most common pollutants are:

- Trash (fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts and Styrofoam cups)
- Toxins (used motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizer, pesticides, sewage overflow and pet waste)

BODY OF WATERS

Laguna Madre

The Laguna Madre is a shallow bay located to the east of South Padre Island. It extends from Corpus Christi to Port Isabel. The Laguna Madre is one of the most important wildlife refuges on the U.S. coast.

Arroyo Colorado

The Arroyo Colorado is a small river located in the lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. The river serves as a recreational area for boating and fishing, but more importantly is a nursery and home to numerous marine species.

WHAT THE CITY IS DOING?

Involvement

Palmhurst, along with 14 other cities within Hidalgo and Cameron County make up the Stormwater Taskforce Program. The focus of the taskforce is to implement storm water control measures. The following 8 committees were created to carry out the measures.



Training



On September 18, 2008, the Stormwater Taskforce visited the City of Laredo's Environmental Services Department. The Laredo staff provided great ideas for outreach, ordinance development and the enforcement process of construction sites.

Public Education

Public Education campaigns are in place to raise awareness.

The first school presentation was done for the 6th grade science class at Rafael Cantu Jr. High School, 5101 North Stewart Road, on Monday, December 15, 2008.

More school presentations are currently being scheduled.



Outreach

In a joint effort between Mission and Alton, an Earth Day Activity was held Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. One of the planned activities includes a clean up around the Conway area.

THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION

- Pick up and bag your pet's waste! Leaving waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacterial and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and into your local waters.
- Do not apply fertilizers and pesticides before it rains. Contrary to popular belief, the rain will not help soak chemicals into the ground; instead, it creates polluted runoff into your local waters.
- Do not dump your car's oil on the ground or in the storm drain; dispose of it properly at an oil-recycling center.
- Wash your car with water only or use biodegradable soap to avoid runoff of harmful chemicals and try to wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface. To conserve water, use a bucket or hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle. Better yet, use a commercial carwash that recycles its water!
- Do not pump your pool water into the street or storm drain; pool chemicals can be hazardous to aquatic habitats. Drain your pool into the sanitary sewer system where it can be treated.
- Don't mess with Texas! Throw your litter in a garbage can and recycle what you can!
- Report storm water pollution to the Palmhurst City Hall at (956) 583-8697.

LINKS

[Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership](#)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

[Stormwater Management of the Lower Rio Grande Valley](#)