

HELP PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION



LAWN & GARDEN TIPS

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant and plant in areas where soil is exposed.
- Compost or recycle yard waste.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent them from washing into drains.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas.

DON'T LITTER!

- Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world and should always be thrown in the trash.
- Pitch in and help clean up littered areas.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.

PICK UP PET WASTE

- When walking your pet, pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.
- Do not dispose of pet waste near storm drains, culverts, ditches or water bodies.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Use paints, solvents, cleaners, etc., in the smallest amounts possible.
- Store hazardous materials properly.
- Clean water-based painting supplies in the sink.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Dispose of hazardous materials at the Lawrence-Douglas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. More info: lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty water flowing into the stormwater system.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, machinery and equipment for leaks.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like cat litter or sand.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating locations.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs, lawns and paved areas that is carried away by the City's stormwater system. As it flows over the land surface, stormwater is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This water is untreated, and discharges into the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Contaminated or polluted stormwater can lead to significant water quality problems.
- Increased runoff from developed areas may cause flooding and erosion of stream banks, allowing excessive sediment to enter our streams.
- Sediment threatens aquatic plant growth, and elevated nutrient levels may limit available oxygen, which is vital to fish and other aquatic life; while debris washed into our waterways can disable or kill wildlife.
- Pathogens from pet waste washed into lakes and rivers create health hazards and may close beaches.
- Improperly handled Household Hazardous Wastes (paint, pesticides, auto fluids, etc.) can poison aquatic life.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources—potentially risking human health and costs of water treatment.

CONTACT

For questions or to report a violation or illicit discharge, contact the Municipal Services & Operations Department at **785-832-7800** or **MSO@lawrenceks.org**. You can also report a violation by using Lawrence Listens, an online citizen reporting tool by visiting **lawrenceks.org/listens**.



City of Lawrence
MUNICIPAL SERVICES & OPERATIONS

