

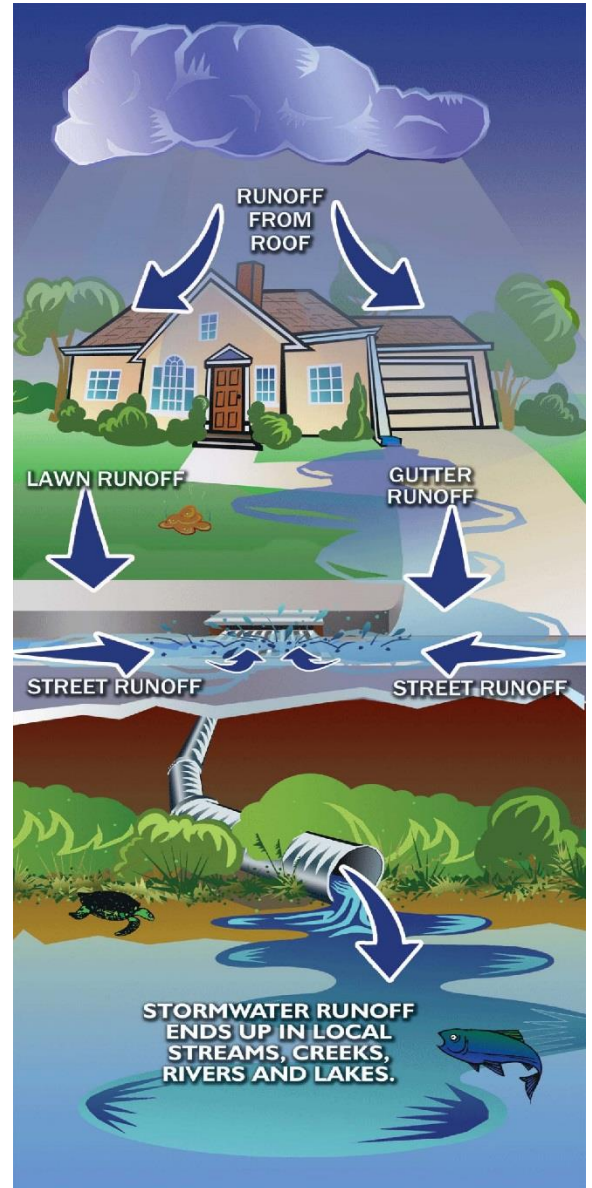


## City of Midlothian Stormwater Management Program

### What is stormwater?

Stormwater is a term used to describe water that originates during precipitation events. Stormwater runoff can be loosely defined as rain that hits the ground and then eventually finds its way to the nearest water body. Stormwater falls on buildings, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, loading docks, and landscaped areas. Some of it soaks into the ground, but most of it flows to the nearest storm drain inlet.

You see these storm drain inlets everywhere – along roads, in parking lots, near buildings. Some are round, but most are square or rectangular. The City of Midlothian has begun marking the inlets with the message, “No Dumping - Drains to Waterway,” either with an imprinted lid covering or by placement of a permanent stainless steel marker. All of these inlets connect to pipes underground that then carry the water to the nearest body of water.



Urban stormwater runoff in general has been identified as a major problem for water quality nationwide. Urbanization alters the infiltration capability of soil. Instead of fields and meadowlands, we now have rooftops, roads, and parking lots with virtually no ability to absorb stormwater. The resulting stormwater flows are higher in volume.

Stormwater flowing over rooftops, streets, driveways, and yards picks up pollutants along the way and deposits them into our storm drains. Contrary to what many people think, storm drains do not lead to wastewater treatment plants. That means that any pollutant in stormwater runoff gets carried directly to our creeks, rivers, and lakes without treatment. It is important that we keep as much of those pollutants out of the stormwater as possible. The main concerns are oil, sediment, nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), heavy metals, toxic chemicals and garbage. In addition to causing water pollution, pollutants in stormwater can clog culverts, which can lead to flooding.



### **What can we do?**

Here is a list of things that we can do to minimize our impact on stormwater:

- √ Never dump anything onto the street or into a gutter or storm sewer drain
- √ Do not rinse or clean items over/near storm sewer drains
- √ Do not litter (even cigarette butts)
- √ Do not dump any chemicals (even soapy water) down a storm sewer drain – “nothing but rain”
- √ Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost
- √ Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash
- √ Limit your use of fertilizer and pesticides to just what is needed
- √ Take advantage of car washes that send their water to the sanitary sewer so that water will be treated

### **Midlothian’s Plan**

On May 27, 2014, the City of Midlothian passed Resolution No. 2014-25 adopting the City of Midlothian’s Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) in accordance with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit Rules and Regulations, as administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

As a small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Operator, the City of Midlothian was required to develop and submit to the TCEQ a SWMP by June 13, 2014, in an effort to minimize pollution in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable, prohibit illicit discharges to the storm sewer system, and control construction site storm-water pollution. The City must develop and implement its SWMP over a 5-year period. The SWMP includes Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for each of the following five minimum control measures:

1. Public Education, Outreach, and Involvement

2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
3. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
4. Post-Construction Stormwater management in New Development and Redevelopment
5. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

### Construction

Construction site operators (contractors) will be required to utilize BMP's in order to minimize the amount of displaced sediment and debris reaching the stormwater drainage network. Some examples of BMP's at construction sites are silt fence, inlet protection, detention basins, construction entrances, concrete washout areas, wheel wash areas, and vegetation.

#### Please contact us if you observe or detect:

- Ø Suspicious dumping of any items within the storm drain system
- Ø A strong odor coming from the storm drain
- Ø Leaky septic systems
- Ø Sedimentation from construction sites
- Ø Overflowing manhole



#### Be prepared to give the following information:

- Location of complaint
- Source of pollution, if known
- Responsible party, if known
- Any other relevant information



*You may remain anonymous if you desire*

Contact City of Midlothian, Engineering Department at (972) 775-7199 during normal office hours and after hours please call the Police Department non-emergency at (972) 775-3333 for the Utility on-call personnel. Non-emergency reports and/or inquiries can be submitted via email to [engineering@midlothian.tx.us](mailto:engineering@midlothian.tx.us)

As the City continues with the implementation of the SWMP, we will continue to update the website to keep everyone informed.

#### Web Resources:

- [EPA Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff](#)
- [The Dirty Dozen – 12 Tips to Prevent Storm Water Pollution](#)
- [Fat, Oil and Grease “FOG” Sewer Smart Tips](#)