

Keep the **STREAM CLEAN**

Learn
How to
Help!



Papillion - La Vista
Stormwater Outreach



Did you know the water that goes down the storm drain is not treated?

Stormwater runoff goes down the drain, into the stormwater system, and directly to nearby streams, rivers, and lakes – the same waterways where we swim, fish, and receive our drinking water.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Wash your car at a car wash, not your driveway.
- Sweep instead of hosing off your driveway and other paved surfaces.
- Regularly inspect your vehicle for leaks.
- Properly dispose of yard waste in approved yard waste bags.
- Use a tarp when transporting unsecured debris in the back of a vehicle.
- Mark neighborhood storm drains with a “No Dumping” disc as a visual reminder.

For more information visit:

omahastormwater.org

papiopartnership.org

cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek



What can I do?

Here are five simple things you can do to keep our streams clean:

1 Fertilize Responsibly

Lawn chemicals can help keep our yards green, but over-fertilizing often results in chemicals running into our streams. Once in the stream, the fertilizer promotes abundant algae growth which uses up the oxygen needed by other water creatures.

Use only as much fertilizer as you need. One application of no- or low-phosphorus fertilizer in the fall is sufficient for most lawns. Sweep spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces and onto your lawn to help keep it where it can be used. After fertilizing, water sparingly to keep the fertilizer on your lawn.

2 Reduce Runoff

Your roof is typically the largest impervious surface on your property. By capturing or redirecting the rainwater that comes from your roof, you can significantly decrease the quantity of water reaching the nearby storm drains.

- Install a rain barrel that collects water from your roof.
- Install a rain garden on your property to help collect and infiltrate storm water on your property.
- Redirect your downspouts so they empty into your lawn or flower beds, rather than paved surfaces.



3 Recycle Household Chemicals

Antifreeze, gasoline, household cleaners, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. Instead of putting these chemicals into the trash, down the storm drain, or into the ground, take them to your local hazardous waste center.

Douglas and Sarpy County residents can take their household hazardous wastes to:



Under The Sink
4001 South 120th Street
402-444-SINK
www.underthesink.org

4 Pick Up Pet Waste

Pet waste left on sidewalks, streets, and grassy areas is easily flushed into the nearest waterway when it rains. Once in the stream, this waste can contain harmful bacteria that can make other pets sick and make the water body unsafe for recreation, irrigation, or other uses.

This one is simple! Pick up the pet waste from your yard and dispose of it properly. Use biodegradable plastic bags to ensure the disposed waste will fully breakdown at the landfill.



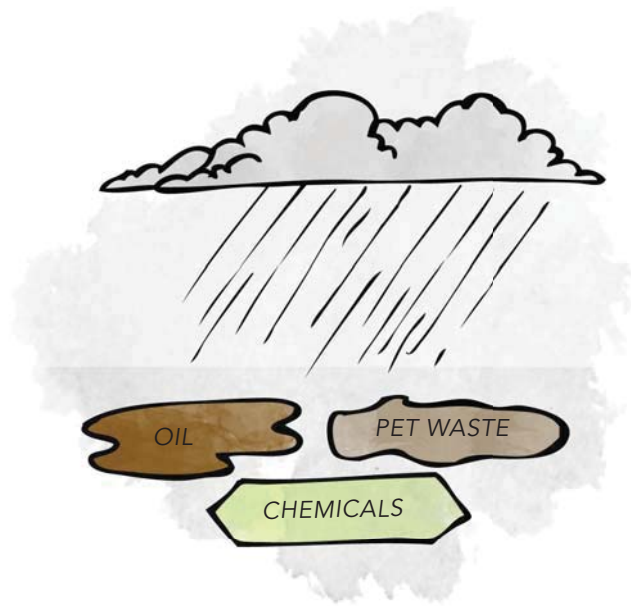
5 Report Pollution

Illegal dumping pollutes our land and violates the rights of others. It's not only dangerous – especially to children who are vulnerable to sharp objects – it's expensive to clean up. Make the right decision and stand up for your community.

To report spills, dumping, or draining of pollutants to the street, storm drain, drainageway, or waterway, call Papillion Public Works at 402-597-2043 or La Vista Public Works at 402-331-8927 or email: publicworks@cityoflavista.org.

Watch for:

1. Dumping of motor oil, chemicals, trash, or yardwaste.
2. Improper outdoor storage of chemicals or other materials that can pollute the ground.
3. Dirt from construction sites or other erosion problems.
4. Drainageways or waterways with unusual appearances or odors.



Did you know that the water that goes down the storm drain is not treated?

That stormwater runoff goes down the drain, into the stormwater system, and directly to your nearby streams, rivers, and lakes – the same waterways where we swim, fish, and get our drinking water.

Unfortunately, the water that enters the drain picks up almost everything it comes in contact with including motor oil, fuels, lawn chemicals, pet waste, and litter. The physical materials can cause flooding by blocking the stormwater system. The chemicals can contaminate ground and surface water, making those bodies of water unsafe for body contact.

Other ways you can help:

- Take your car to a car wash, rather than washing it on your driveway. A car wash has filter systems so used water drains to the sewer, rather than a storm drain.
- Sweep instead of hosing off driveways and other paved surfaces.
- Regularly inspect your vehicles for leaks.
- Properly dispose of yard waste in approved yard waste bags, don't push it to the street where it can clog storm drains.
- Use a tarp or other cover when transporting unsecured debris in the back of a vehicle.
- Mark your neighborhood storm drains with a "No Dumping" disc as a visual reminder. Contact La Vista Public Works or Papillion Public Works for more information.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit these websites:

www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek

www.cityofpapillion.org

www.omahastormwater.org

www.papiopartnership.org

www.cwp.org