



# Runoff Roundup



December 2020

## Clean Streets = Clean Creeks



In the City of Norman, stormwater carries pollutants directly into the City's waterways through the storm drainage system. Unlike our household wastewater, stormwater does not go through a treatment plant first. It is dumped directly into our lakes and rivers. Do your part this season and help keep our waterways free of pollution:

- Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks and streets, and rake, mulch or compost yard waste. Don't forget to sweep along the curb. Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches and driveways, sidewalks and streets.
- Fall is the best season to fertilize your lawn and control common weeds. Weed and feed responsibly. Use fertilizers and pesticides only as needed and always read and follow product instructions carefully. Be phosphorus conscious!
- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques in addition to, or even instead of, pesticides. Try these: pulling weeds by hand (counts as a workout), or spot-treating weedy areas instead of your entire yard.
- Resist the urge to let Fido fend for himself when the weather turns colder and keep on scooping poop. Pet waste contains phosphorus, nitrogen and harmful bacteria.
- During routine fall tune-ups, check your car and lawn equipment for leaks. A good rainstorm can send gasoline and oil drips from automobiles, lawnmowers and power equipment into waterways.
- When it's time to control snow and ice on your driveway and sidewalks, consider safe and effective alternatives to salt and follow the application rate on the label. Salt is damaging to plants, animals, concrete and water quality. Instead of using salt, consider using sand or other non-toxic, gritty materials to gain traction or a salt-free de-icer.

### City of Norman Contact Information

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<https://www.normanok.gov/your-government/departments/public-works-department/stormwater-division>

### Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Contact Information

Stormwater Program  
Office: 405-702-8100  
<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/stormwater/index.html>

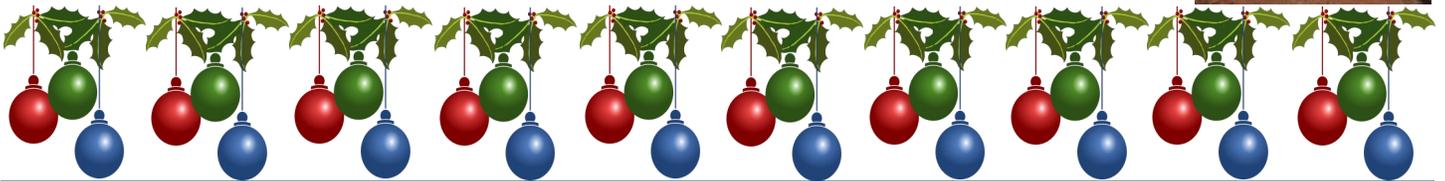
### LAKE THUNDERBIRD WORKSHOP AND CLEANUP

On November 15, 2020, the City of Norman hosted the 5th Annual Lake Thunderbird Watershed Workshop and Cleanup Event at the Lake Thunderbird Indian Day Use Area as the culmination of the 2020 Lake Thunderbird Watershed Blitz. During the socially distanced and masked workshop, participants learned about Lake Thunderbird water quality, the role stormwater runoff plays, and ways they could help protect water quality. Additionally, participants played an active role in removing pollution, in the form of trash, from the watershed. Almost 50 attendees collected over 640 pounds of trash around the lake that may have otherwise ended up in Lake Thunderbird. Two Blitz All Stars were recognized: John Houghton and Mary Hogan (pictured left, respectively). These two watershed standouts attended every event during the Blitz! Make plans to join us for next year's blitz; it's a fun way to make a difference in your community!



## BUILDERS' CORNER

Did you know track out from a site is a significant source of sediment pollution? Track out is dirt, mud or other debris tracked onto a paved public roadway by vehicles or equipment leaving a construction site. As rainfall, wind, or other vehicles pass over, the sediment can be broken down and washed into storm drains or lifted into the air. A stabilized construction exit can help prevent stormwater pollution from track out. A typical stabilized construction exit consists of 2" to 3" clean rock laid over geotextile. The rock should be at a minimum depth of 18" and should be a minimum of 50' long or 4 times the circumference of the largest tire that will cross it, whichever is greatest. Additionally, the exit should be graded in such a way to prevent sediment-laden water from flowing down the exit and into the roadway. All equipment and vehicles should be directed to the exit to leave the site. When the vehicles and/or equipment drive over the rocks, the wheels and tires bounce along, which knocks off the mud and sediment stuck in the treads. Of course, as with any Best Management Practice (BMP), maintenance is critical for effectiveness. Accumulated sediment within the rock should be removed routinely, and aggregate should be replaced periodically. If excessive track out occurs, the exit should be lengthened or an alternative should be put in place, such as rumble plates or wheel washes.



### LETTING NATURE DO ITS JOB: RAINWATER HARVESTING



Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater for reuse on site, rather than allowing it to become runoff. Archaeological evidence shows that rainwater harvesting is an ancient technique that was practiced as far back as 4,000 years ago. Rainwater has a nearly neutral pH and is free from salts, minerals, and other natural and man-made contaminants. The harvested water can be used to irrigate lawns and

gardens, wash cars or be used for other similar activities. When harvested rainwater is used for these types of things, less drinkable water is used, increasing water conservation and lowering water bills. Additionally, when rainfall becomes runoff, it can pick up pollution and deposit it into our waterways. Harvesting the rainwater helps to reduce stormwater pollution by minimizing the amount of stormwater runoff that leaves a site. An added bonus? Plants thrive when watered with harvested rainwater!

### RAIN BARREL PROMOTION



If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel, the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) is hosting a rain barrel promotion. The rain barrels are made from re-purposed food-grade barrels and can be purchased for \$63.50 by going to <https://upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/nnm/>. Orders must be placed by March 24, 2021, if ordering by mail or by March 28, 2021, if ordering online. Rain barrels must be picked up at the City of Norman Public Works Yard, 668 East Lindsey Street, on April 2, 2021, from 4 pm to 6 pm or on April 3, 2021, from 9 am to 1 pm.

For more information, please contact Michele at [michele.loudenback@normanok.gov](mailto:michele.loudenback@normanok.gov) or 405-329-2924.

## Make the Call... to Stop Stormwater Pollution

Ever wonder who to call to report dirt in the streets from a construction site, grass clippings or other chemicals being dumped down a storm drain, or other stormwater-related problems?

If you see anything other than rain being placed in or entering the storm drain, please report it to the Action Center at (405) 366-5396 or [Action.Center@NormanOK.gov](mailto:Action.Center@NormanOK.gov) or you can contact Stormwater Division staff at [pwstormwater@normanok.gov](mailto:pwstormwater@normanok.gov).

