



# Runoff Roundup



March 2021



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## Clean Streets = Clean Stormwater

In the City of Norman, storm drains empty directly into our waterways. When debris like plastic bags, cigarette butts, food wrapping, and bottles gets washed into our waterways, it can cause a big problem by degrading drinking water supplies, making wildlife sick and ruining recreational use. Additionally, trash and litter can also clog storm drains and cause flooding which can damage homes and businesses nearby. Here are some tips on how to help:

- Never put or pour anything in the storm drain or drainage ditch.
- Properly dispose of trash BEFORE it becomes litter.
- Keep garbage can lids are secure.
- If you see litter and trash in your neighborhood, pick it up and properly dispose of it.
- Organize or participate in a clean-up event in your community—call Michele for more information.
- Help get the word out to others by participating in the storm drain marking program—call Michele for more information.

With just a few simple actions, we can create a litter- and trash-free town! See below for some exciting opportunities to help!

## Spring Clean-up Events Scheduled

To help keep our water clean, the City of Norman Stormwater Division is excited to host a suite of clean-up events in March and April across the City and within both of our major watersheds. These events will allow volunteers to make a huge impact on their community by removing trash and other material from our watersheds which could otherwise end up in the Canadian River or Lake Thunderbird.

**Schedule of Events** (all events are scheduled for **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**):

- **March 21: NE Lions Park**, 1800 Northcliff Ave. (meet at shelter)
- **March 27: 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE from Lindsey to Boyd** (meet in west end of Colonial Estates Shopping Center parking lot)
- **March 28: Woodcreek Park**, 1710 Concord Dr (look for the shade tent)
- **April 11: Pick Your Watershed Clean:** Prairie Creek Park or Chisolm Cattle Trail Park
- **April 18: Colonial Estates**, 1641 E. Lindsey, as part of the Great American Clean-up
- **April 25: William Morgan Park**, 1701 Schooner Dr.

For more information, or to register, contact Michele Loudenback.

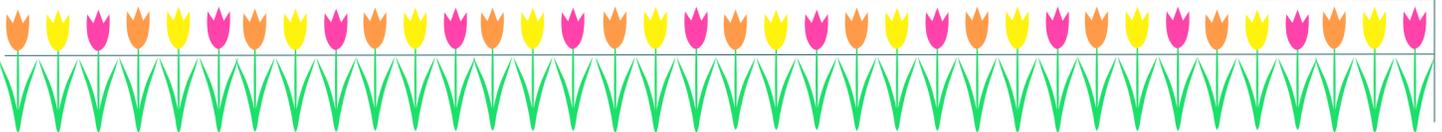
# BUILDERS' CORNER

Did you know that sediment that enters storm drain inlets can increase flooding risk and decrease water quality? Sediment from construction can enter storm drain inlets and cause clogging of the storm sewer. Stormwater carrying sediment that enters inlets which do not discharge to a sediment basin can also cause sediment to discharge into our creeks, streams, and lakes. Inlet protection is used to reduce sediment entering inlet structures by allowing sediment to settle or be filtered out before entering the storm sewer system. Commonly used inlet protection Best Management Practices (BMPs) include: rock berms, bags, tubes, and logs; sediment dike; fiber and compost logs; silt fence enclosures; filter bag inserts; geotextile or filter mats, etc. When selecting inlet protection BMPs, consideration should be given to the type of inlet, traffic, water flows, and safety. The entire inlet should be protected, including any ground-level grating and/or hoods. Additionally, all inlets in proximity to the construction that could be affected should be protected. Regular site inspections will help facilitate consistent maintenance. Maintenance should occur if there are rips or tears that cause a discharge to the inlet, if there are flows that bypass the protection, if the protection has been moved or displaced, and/or if sediment has accumulated on or near the area. If inlet inserts are used, accumulated sediment should be removed in a timely manner to avoid breakage or spillage. Inlet protection can save sediment ponds and other infrastructure capacity and can help reduce flooding and stormwater pollution.



Join us for a hands-on Builders Workshop, **Stormwater Controls: The Right Way and the Wrong**, on **May 13, 2021** from **11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at West Franklin Sod Farm. Lunch provided and prizes awarded! Know someone who does a great job? Nominate them for a KUDO!

Contact Michele Loudenback for more information or to register.



## 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



Interested in purchasing a rain barrel? The Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) is currently hosting a rain barrel promotion. The rain barrels are made from repurposed food-grade barrels and can be purchased for \$63.50 by going to:

<https://upcycle-products.com/ok-programs/nnm/>

Mail-in orders must be received at Upcycle by March 24, 2021. Online orders are due March 28, 2021.

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 405-329-2524.

## Pet Waste is Pollution. . .Scoop Your Poop!

It may not seem like a stormwater problem, but pet waste is one of the top 5 contributors of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds. Bacteria can spread diseases which cause serious illness in humans. Pet waste is also high in nitrogen and phosphorous which contribute to harmful algal blooms and taste and odor issues in our drinking water. You can make a difference by being a responsible pet owner:

- Carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog so you will be prepared to clean up after your pet. Then, throw it in the nearest trash can. We have compact, refillable bag dispensers that can attach right to your dog's leash. Call Michele to get one.
- Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a waterbody.
- Clean up the waste in your back yard or hire someone to do it for you.
- And, of course, never throw dog waste into a storm drain.