

RUNOFF ROUNDUP

December 2022



The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance (LTWA) was formed in 2020 to work collaboratively with residents, communities and other stakeholders to protect the water quality and quantity of Lake Thunderbird. The LTWA provides educational materials, presentations and other resources to help protect/improve the water quality in Lake Thunderbird. Learn more about LTWA and how you can help by visiting: <https://www.ltwoak.org/>

Here are a few simple things you can do at home to improve the health the Lake Thunderbird Watershed and our local streams:

1. Use conservation practices that keep as much rainwater on your property as possible such as rain barrels, rain gardens, pervious pavements and pollinator strips.
2. Increase the cutting height on your lawn mower. Taller grass means longer roots and more water being soaked into the ground.
3. Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn chemicals in your yard. If you think you need to fertilize your yard, submit a soil test to your local County Extension office first so you know exactly what needs to be added and how much.
4. Properly dispose of chemicals such as used motor oil, household cleaners and paint. Do not pour anything down storm drains.
5. Keep your automobiles and other motorized equipment in good working order so they do not leak oil or other fluids. If you change your oil at home, consider collecting it to take to your local automotive parts store such as Wal-Mart, O'Reilly's or Auto Zone.
6. Pick up your pet waste and dispose of it in the trash can or compost it separately from household waste.



As the temperatures start dropping, don't forget to winterize your rain barrel! Following these simple steps can help keep your barrel from being damaged by freeze/thaw this winter.

1. Drain all the water from your rain barrel. This also a good opportunity to rinse or wash your barrel if any sediment or algae has built up.
2. Detach your barrel from the downspout or diverter. Replace any missing parts so that your gutters can function like normal without the barrel.
3. If you are storing your barrel outside over the winter, you may want to store your barrel upside down and remove the spigot, overflow valve, or any other attachments. This keeps water from accumulating and freezing between the components which can damage the barrel.



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