

Carrollton Environmental Services  
**THE STORM WATER READER**

April 2013

**THIS IS A FISH TANK**



*Did You Know?*

The benefits of using native or adapted plants in your landscape include:

- ❁ Low maintenance
- ❁ Water conservation
- ❁ Less fertilizers and pesticides
- ❁ Wildlife friendly
- ❁ Saves money

Check out Texas Smartscape's redesigned website at [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com).



**THIS IS ITS LID**



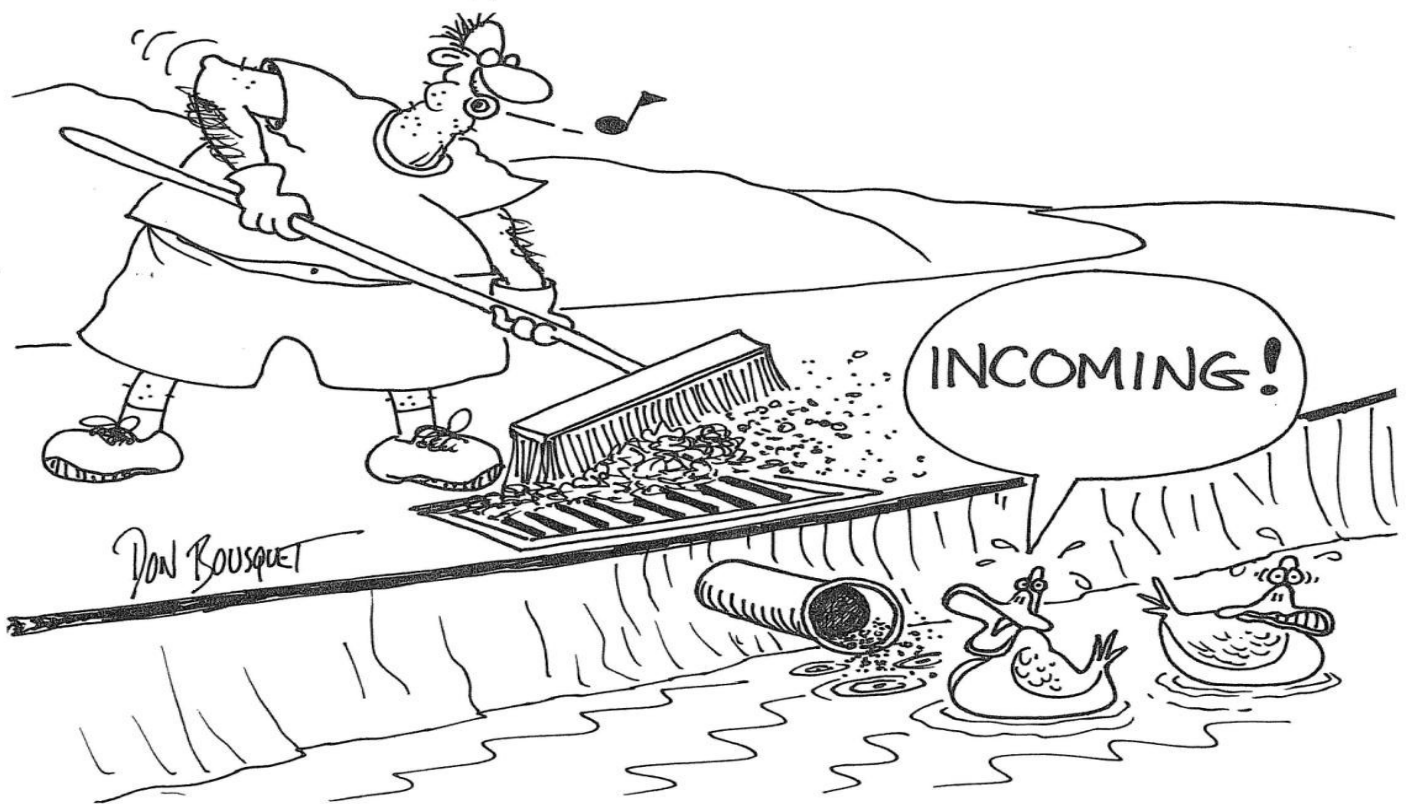
That's right! Your favorite fishing hole begins right on the street. Look along the curb and find a storm drain inlet. It's a direct connection to your local pond, creek, lake or river.

Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding. Large volumes of water from heavy rains and snowmelt wash over streets and into the storm drain inlets. Pipes underground transport the water rapidly into area creeks, rivers and lakes.

But there is a down side to storm drains. When water washes into the storm drains, pollutants are carried along for the ride. Litter, pet waste, dirt, fertilizers, antifreeze grass clippings, leaves and motor oil...just a few examples of contaminants that enter our waterways through storm drains. No filters, no treatment.

**Help keep our waters clean. Keep storm drains for rainwater only!**





It's no joke! Whatever enters a storm drain inlet flows directly into our ponds, creeks, lakes and rivers. The storm drain system provides no filters and no treatment. Contaminants that end up in our waterways can cause toxic or foul water, heavy algae growth, fish kills and can harm other wildlife. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish and wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our city's landscape. Help keep our surface waters clean. Follow these tips to reduce the amount of pollution in our waterways:

- ◆ Report polluters to Environmental Services at 972-466-3060!
- ◆ Never dump, wash, or sweep motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty or soapy water, or anything else into the street, alley or storm drain inlets.
- ◆ Sweep; don't hose your driveway or other paved surfaces.
- ◆ Keep leaves, grass clippings and fertilizers out of the storm drain.
- ◆ Unintentional littering is still littering. Remove trash from your vehicle so it doesn't blow out when the windows and doors are open.

Courtesy RI Stormwater Solutions

## Swimming Pools

Taking a dip in your swimming pool on a hot summer day is a great way to cool off. Along with this enjoyment is the responsibility to properly maintain your pool. Swimming pool, spa or fountain water can be a source of pollution. The water can contain chlorine and other chemicals that can be harmful to aquatic wildlife and their habitat. Even saltwater pools contain chlorine and may not be drained to the street, alley or storm drain!

Swimming pool water that contains chlorine or other chemicals must be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Water in this system gets treated. The plumbing in your home is already connected to the sanitary sewer system. Use a long hose and drain the water into the closest sewer clean-out, sink or bathtub.

