

Carrollton Environmental Services  
**THE STORMWATER READER**

November 2013

## TIPS TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

**Don't be a turkey**—protect our waterways from stormwater pollution!

November means Thanksgiving which means visions of turkeys on the table. But don't be the turkey in your department by ignoring or failing to prevent pollution of our waterways through stormwater runoff.

Many Texas cities, including Carrollton, are working hard to reduce the effects of polluted stormwater runoff, which is the water you see flowing down the street when it rains.

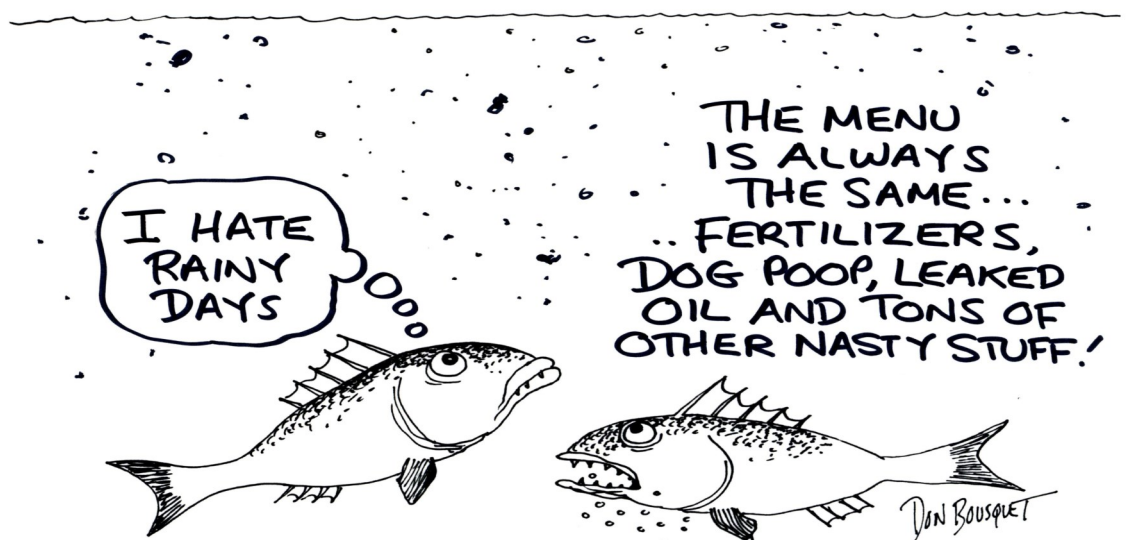
Stormwater is not treated in Carrollton and other cities in North Texas and it can be responsible for closing swimming beaches and fishing grounds, threatening our drinking water, harming natural areas, and contributing to flooding! Fortunately, there are many ways that you can help while you are at work.

- Report polluters to your supervisor or call Environmental Services (Ext. 5727)
- If a spill or leak occurs while you are working, make sure it gets cleaned up and not left on the ground. If possible, do not let the material get into a storm drain inlet.
- If you notice that a city vehicle is leaking, report it to your supervisor or bring it to Fleet for repairs.
- Make sure to wash city vehicles and equipment at the city wash bays or bring it to the designated commercial carwash.
- Eating your lunch outside? Remember to place your trash in a trash can right away or place the trash inside your work vehicle until you throw it away. Trash placed in the back of the truck can blow out while you are driving and is still considered littering!

### *Did You Know?*

Cooking oil from  
frying your turkey or  
cooking other meats  
or foods can be  
recycled.

Bring your used  
cooking oil to the  
Central Service  
Center at 2711 Nimitz  
Ln. on  
December 2 or 3,  
from 8am-6pm  
so it can be disposed  
of properly!





## **GIFT IDEAS THAT HELP PROTECT OUR CREEKS!**

December is a busy month for many people and these days, a lot of that busy-ness centers on gift-giving. Carrollton is working hard to reduce the effects of polluted stormwater runoff. So we thought this might be an appropriate time to provide a list of unusual but thoughtful gifts that can benefit us all.

For gardeners or new homeowners, give them a gift certificate to a local nursery with a list of native or adapted plants. Texas Smartscape plants require less water, less fertilizers, less pesticides and less maintenance, which in turn will save them money! The Texas SmartScpae website ([www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)) can also help them design their gardens!

For the car enthusiast, try a gift certificate for an oil change at a local garage, or a nice wash and detail at the local car wash. Keeping oil and soapy water out of storm drains benefits us all.

For the person who changes their own oil or other vehicle fluids, give them a few reusable containers to collect and store the used oil or fluids until they can be recycled.

For the dog lover, a gift of a portable bag dispenser that attaches to a dog's leash will ensure that pet waste is kept off the sidewalks and out of local waters. That's something we all can enjoy.

For the shopping lover, a collection of reusable bags may come in handy and will help keep plastic bags out of our creeks.