

Carrollton Environmental Services  
**THE STORM WATER READER**

April 2014

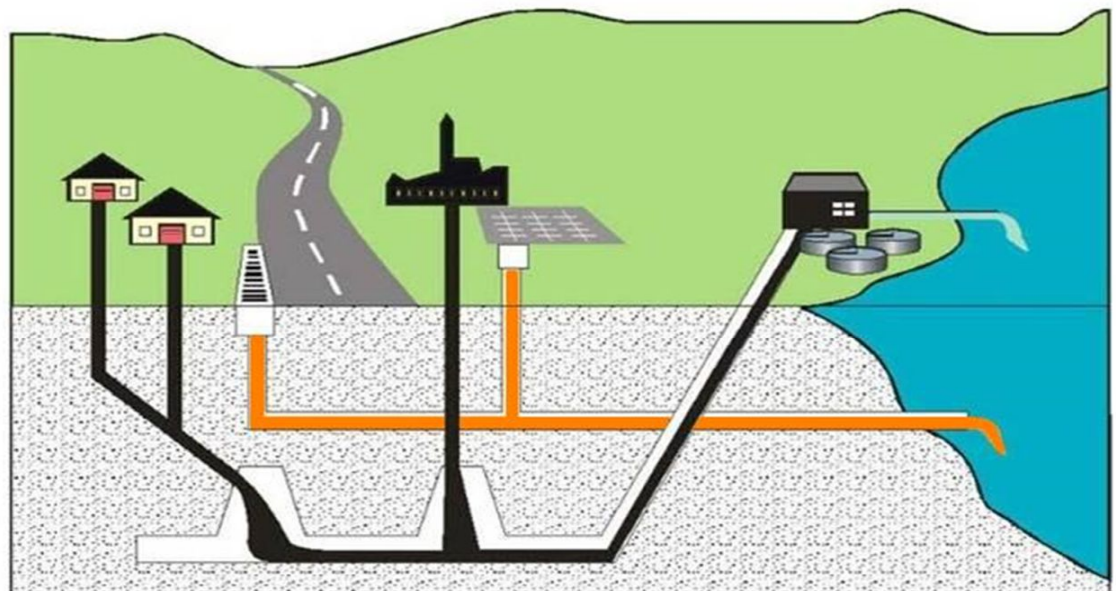
# ILLICIT DISCHARGES

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. These non-storm water discharges can occur either through direct connections (ex. wastewater piping mistakenly or intentionally connected to the stormwater system) or indirect connections (ex. infiltration from cracked sanitary systems, sewer overflows, or dumping of paint, used oil or other chemicals directly into a storm drain).

Illicit discharges are a problem because, unlike wastewater which flows to a wastewater treatment plant, stormwater generally flows to waterways without any additional treatment. The result is untreated discharges that add high levels of pollutants, like heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, viruses, and bacteria to receiving local water bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in studies by the US Environmental Protection Agency to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Carrollton has an illicit discharge detection and elimination program to prevent contamination of ground and surface water supplies through monitoring, inspection and removal of these illegal non-storm water discharges.

To be effective, our illicit discharge program needs to be both proactive and reactive. While we address spills and other discharges that are found, we must also be proactive in preventing and eliminating illicit discharges through education, training, inspections, enforcement and active community involvement.



**Sanitary Sewer**



**Gets Treated**

**Storm Sewer**



**Does *NOT* Get Treated**

## *Did You Know?*

Many of us  
work in the field  
and can help  
spot polluters  
or  
find illicit connections  
to the storm drain  
system.

See the second page  
for examples  
of illicit discharges  
you may encounter  
in the field.

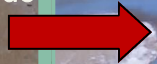
Contact your supervisor  
or  
Environmental Services  
if you suspect or see  
an illicit discharge.



# ILLICIT DISCHARGES YOU MAY OBSERVE IN THE FIELD



Contractor or Resident washing equipment outside



Sanitary sewer overflow



Foam in the creek



Restaurant washing parking lot



Pool water discharge onto street



Illegal connection to the storm drain system