

Carrollton Environmental Services
THE STORMWATER READER

November 2017

Seasonal Tips for Protecting OUR Waterways

It is that time of year again - fall is here! We would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams. On its journey to the stream, stormwater can pick up harmful substances that pollute our watershed.

There are many sources of stormwater pollution unique to autumn and we need your help to control them. The leaves are falling and their improper disposal poses a threat to our water resources. Any leaf litter and yard waste dumped into a stormwater inlet or near a waterway can cause harmful nutrient accumulation. Leaves blown or swept into the street can easily enter storm drains and make their way into the nearest creek as well.

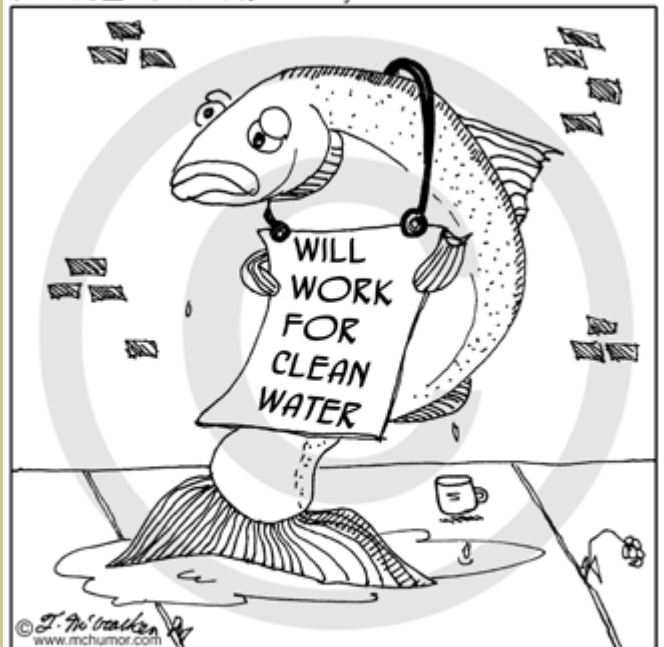
We are past the window for fall seeding and fertilizing your lawn. The best time for those activities are in September. Wait until spring to place seed and apply fertilizer (but only if you have to fertilize!) Please remember that if excess fertilizer is applied, it cannot be absorbed by the soil and washes away with the rain. If you are working on a landscaping project in your yard this season or in the spring, bare soil can also run off into streams and cause sediment pollution. All of these problems can be avoided by putting some of our pollution prevention tips into practice:

Leave leaf litter and yard waste on your lawn and never blow it into the street, storm drain inlet or stream! You can shred yard and leaf waste to use as mulch or fertilizer for your yard and garden. Or, bag it and place it by the curb on your pick-up day.

Wait until spring to fertilize. Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm and do not apply them in excess. Always follow the directions on the label for safe application and disposal whenever you use a chemical product. Reduce outdoor and household chemical use as much as possible.

A little extra caution while you keep up with your fall to-do list can make a big difference for the health of our creeks and rivers and we thank you for cooperating with this effort.

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*Did You
Know?*

**The City holds
a cooking
grease
recycling event
after
Thanksgiving**

**DON'T BE A
TURKEY...**



**November 27 & 28
7 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Central Service Center
2711 Nimitz Lane**

Sponsored by Liquid Environmental Solutions

Natural “Discharges” In Nature

While we have many illicit or prohibited discharges that can cause a wide variety of problems in our waterways, there are also many things in nature that may look like an illicit discharge but occur naturally.

Soils may contain iron, magnesium, calcium, or other minerals. When these are released from the soil they look like an illicit discharge. Ponds, creeks, and lakes may have different colored algae or have algae that may smell like sewage. Below are a few examples of naturally occurring “discharges” that look like an illicit discharge.

Always contact *Environmental Services at 972-466-5727* if you observe or think you observe an illicit discharge or spill! We will gladly go out and investigate all concerns.

Iron Bacteria—when iron mixes with water



Mixture of Calcium, Iron and Magnesium



Algae in a pond that was reported as motor oil



Duckweed—purple area called in as porta potty waste and smelled like sewage

