Pollution Control for Residents

Does stormwater go to a wastewater treatment plant?

Stormwater collection systems which drain the roadways and surrounding areas, including your yards, discharge directly to creeks and natural water courses. This rain and snowmelt runoff is not treated at a treatment plant.

What is considered pollution and what is prohibited?

Pollutants such as trash, auto fluids, soap, paint, yard waste, mud/soil and household pet waste are prohibited from being discharges to creeks or the stormwater collection system. .

Are grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste materials considered a pollutant?

Yard waste placed or dumped in a storm drain or along a creek bank is an ordinance violation. This action will increase flooding problems, contribute to creek bank erosion and degrade our streams by decreasing the dissolved oxygen levels in the water. The City recommends mulching your lawn clippings and leaves, using them as mulch, or recycling them through yard waste services.

Should I consider landscaping with native plants?

The use of native plants, and low-maintenance landscaping, can reduce the use of fertilizer and watering requirements. These plantings can have a positive impact on our local stormwater collection systems, streams, rivers, creeks, ponds and lakes

What should I consider when landscaping my property?

Weather conditions in our area can change rapidly. When working on a landscaping project for an extended period of time, be sure to cover any exposed soil. Be sure to apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and only according to the manufacturer's directions. Not only will following these directions this save you money, but it will help protect area creeks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes and rivers. The over application of lawn chemicals will increase the nutrient levels in these waterways. Increased nutrient levels harms fish and other animals who depend on clean water.

Am I allowed to wash my vehicle in my driveway?

You may wash your vehicle in your driveway, but doing so on your lawn is better for area waterways. Because most driveways are made from an impervious material which allows dirty, soapy water to run unobstructed to the nearest storm drain. When washing a vehicle on your lawn, most water will be absorbed by the soil. When purchasing supplies to wash your vehicle, consider buying a biodegradable soap. This type of soap is broken down by bacteria and other living organisms. If your lawn is saturated, or not large enough to wash your vehicle, use at a commercial carwash where the wastewater is collected and treated.

Why should I pick up pet waste on my own property?
The pathogens in pet waste are harmful to the health of humans, other animals and the environment. Pet waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates area creeks and rivers.

How is pollution control enforced?
A City of Saint Charles ordinance protects the health, welfare and safety of our residents when citizens report nuisance and pollution concerns. Once an issue is reported, the City will investigate your concern. Should the investigation deem City deems the reported concern a violation, the responsible party will be required to remove, correct, and prevent further pollution from occurring.

How can I support clean stormwater efforts?
Be an advocate for our water resources and share your knowledge with neighbors. Join or create a watershed planning group. Participate in household hazardous waste pickup days. Support community organizations and events that protect water resources such as Clean Stream. Finally, use good pollution control practices at home.

Who should I contact to report a source of stormwater pollution or a drainage problem?
If you live within the city limits, contact the City of Saint Charles Public Works Department at 636-949-3363 or via email at public.works@stcharlescitymo.gov.