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Love your city this Valentine's Day by doing your part to prevent stormwater pollution.

Stormwater flows over rooftops, streets, driveways, and yards picking up pollutants along the way and depositing them into storm drains. Storm drains do not lead to wastewater treatment plants. That means that any pollutant in stormwater runoff gets carried directly into creeks, rivers, and lakes without treatment.

The pollutants commonly found include grass clippings, trash, soaps, pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, dirt, and oil. These pollutants degrade the quality of surface water and drinking water, damage the habitat of fish, plants and animals, and can affect recreational uses by making the water unsafe for wading, swimming, boating and fishing.

How can you make a difference?

- Never dump anything down storm drains or into streams and report anyone who does.
- Select native or adapted plants that require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides, making your yard a Texas SmartScape. Visit [www.texasSMARTscape.com](http://www.texasSMARTscape.com) for more information.
- Apply lawn chemicals according to the label. Do not over apply chemicals and never apply before a rain event.
- Keep grass clippings and other yard waste out of street gutters and storm drains. Drains blocked by excessive debris could cause flooding. Compost or mulch instead.
- Dispose of used motor oil, paint, and other household chemicals properly through the City's household hazardous waste collection program. Visit [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com) for more information.
- Do not dispose of used cooking oil by dumping it outside or in a storm drain.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash facility. Washing cars on driveways or streets will result in the cleaning products flowing directly into storm drains.
- DOO the right thing and pick up your pet's waste. Pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites. Visit [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com) and take the pledge to pick up your pet's waste and you will receive a free pet waste dispenser.
- Have your septic tank pumped and inspect your system regularly.
- Don't litter. Put trash in its place.

For more information on how you can help, call the City's Environmental Services at 817-426-9842 or visit the City website, [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).