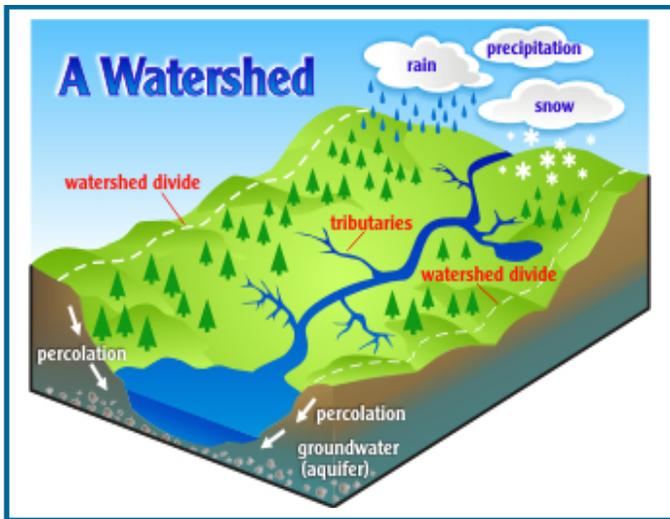


Question: Do you live in a watershed?

Answer: Yes, if you are standing on ground right now, just look down. No matter where you are, you are in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that falls in it ends up in the same place.



John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is:

"That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community".

The word watershed is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. There are 13 major watersheds in Texas. Although these basins share many common features, each is unique and reflects its own climate, geology, topography and vegetation.

The City of Burleson is part of the Trinity River watershed. The Trinity River is a 710-mile long

river that flows entirely within the state of Texas. The Trinity has four branches: the West Fork, the Clear Fork, the Elm Fork, and the East Fork. Many of the lakes along the Trinity River serve as drinking water sources. In addition, they provide us with recreational opportunities such as boating, swimming, or fishing.

Watersheds are important because everyone relies on water to exist and what we do on the land affects water quality for all communities living downstream. Therefore, protecting our watershed from pollution, erosion, and runoff of agricultural or industrial contaminants is essential for our survival.

One of the ways we can help protect our watershed is by preventing stormwater pollution. See the *10 Tips for Preventing Stormwater Pollution* article below to learn about some of the ways you can help protect our watershed.



10 Tips for Preventing Stormwater Pollution

1. Never dump anything down storm drains or into streams and report anyone who does.
2. Select native or adapted plants that require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides, making your yard a Texas SmartScape. Visit www.texas-smartscape.com for more information.
3. Apply lawn chemicals according to the label. Do not over apply chemicals and never apply before a rain event.

Tips continued on back.

Tips continued.

4. 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.
5. Dispose of used motor oil, paint, and other household chemicals properly through the City's household hazardous waste collection program. Visit www.burlesontx.com for more information.
6. Do not dispose of used cooking oil by dumping it outside or in a storm drain.
7. 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.
8. DOO the right thing and pick up your pet's waste. Pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites. Visit www.burlesontx.com and take the pledge to pick up your pet's waste and you will receive a free pet waste dispenser.
9. Have your septic tank pumped and inspect your system regularly.
10. Don't litter. Put trash in its place.

For more information on how you can help prevent stormwater pollution, call Environmental Services at 817-426-9842 or visit www.burlesontx.com.

Help Stop Illegal Dumping

Dumping trash in unauthorized locations is unsightly and can cause major public health and safety concerns. Dumpsites can contain broken glass, exposed metal, hazardous wastes and other dangerous materials; as well as attract pests such as rats, snakes, and mosquitoes. It is expensive to clean up illegal dump sites and it can foster a negative community image. People are more likely to dump on property where dumping has already occurred. Stopping illegal dumping is everyone's problem, and it makes good environmental and economic sense.

Help the City of Burleson reduce illegal dumping by working together with your local code compliance and law enforcement officers for a cleaner, healthier, and safer community.

If you see illegal dumping, report it. During normal business hours, report it to Code Compliance at 817-426-9830. After hours, report it to the Police Department at 817-426-9910.

Penalties under the Texas Litter Abatement Act: Health and Safety Code 365

- **CLASS C MISDEMEANOR:**
Fine up to \$500
5 pounds or less or a volume of 5 gallons or less
- **CLASS B MISDEMEANOR:**
Fine up to \$2,000
and/or up to 180 days in jail
More than 5 pounds but less than 500 pounds or a volume of more than 5 gallons but less than 100 cubic feet
- **CLASS A MISDEMEANOR:**
Fine up to \$4,000
and/or up to 1 year in jail
500 pounds or more but less than 1,000 pounds or has a volume of 100 cubic feet or more but less than 200 cubic feet; or
 - Dumping for a commercial purpose and weighing more than 5 pounds but less than 200 pounds or has a volume more than 5 gallons but less than 200 cubic feet.
- **STATE JAIL FELONY:**
Fine up to \$10,000
and/or up to 2 years in State jail
1,000 pounds or more, has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or
 - Dumping for a commercial purpose and weighing 200 pounds or more, has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or
 - Dumping a closed barrel or drum.