

City of Franklin - Stormwater Management

Green TEAM

quarterly newsletter



In this issue

home pollution solutions | responsible yards | capturing the first inch
getting to know a river | future events

FALL 2019

home pollution solutions



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks it can pick up different types of pollutants that may be on the ground. Stormwater is directed into our storm sewer system and anything that enters it, including pollutants, eventually flows to the Harpeth River and its tributaries!

Solutions to stormwater pollution can start at home. By practicing these healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants off the ground and out of our streams.



Regularly check your car, motorcycle, or other machinery and lawn equipment for leaks and spills. Clean up any spilled fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter or sawdust; remember to clean up and throw away afterwards. Do **NOT** dump or rinse material down the storm drain!



Drop off unwanted batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze, and electronics at **BOPAE**, located at the City's Transfer Station at **417 Century Court**. Click **HERE** to learn more! This service is free and provided year-round.



Fertilizers are great for lawns and landscaping beds, but should be used sparingly. Always apply per the instructions and **avoid applying before a rain event**. If these chemicals are washed into the storm drain it can cause problems for local streams and lead to nutrient pollution.

see stormwater pollution? click **HERE** to report!



Thoughts of cooler temperatures, changing leaves, pumpkin flavored drinks, and comfy oversized sweaters can only mean one thing...

Fall is right around the corner!

Fall in Franklin brings about a beautiful change in our scenery as the trees take on their spectrum of colors. However, it also brings about the not-so-beautiful task of raking and bagging all of the new fallen leaves.



Leaves collected for disposal should be bagged or piled on the side of the curb for City crews to pick up. **Leaves should NOT be raked, blown, or dumped into streets, ditches, or down a storm drain!**

Improperly disposing of leaves or other yard waste can clog storm drains and cause localized flooding. Dumping leaves down a storm drain or into a stream channel can block waterways and lead to an excess of decomposing organic matter, causing nutrient pollution and decreasing oxygen levels for aquatic life. When a stream becomes overly enriched with nutrients and oxygen levels are depleted, this creates a condition called **eutrophication**. The effects of eutrophication threatens aquatic life and causes large algal blooms to grow at a harmful rate.



What can I do to protect water quality and also keep my yard maintained?

- Do not blow or discard material into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage channels
- Use designated bags or pile on the side of the road for collection days
- Mulch, recycle, or compost yard waste to use as nutrients for your lawn and garden

For more information about the City's leaf removal program, visit our Streets Department's website [HERE](#).

For more information about the City's yard waste removal program, visit our Sanitation & Environmental Services Department's website [HERE](#).



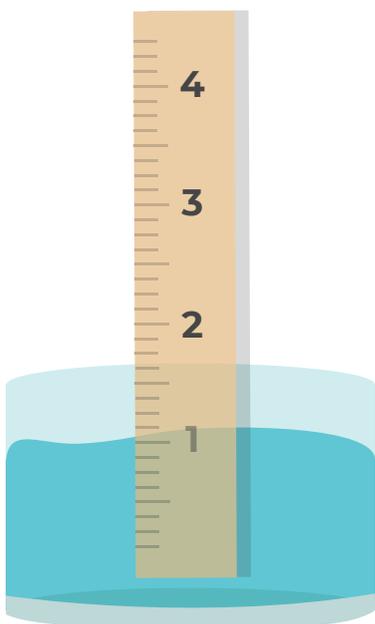
To comply with the City's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which allows the discharge of stormwater into nearby rivers and streams, the City of Franklin has a Stormwater Ordinance with the purpose to *protect, maintain, and enhance the environment of the City of Franklin, and the public health, safety and the general welfare of the citizens, by controlling discharges of Pollutants to the City's stormwater system and to maintain and improve the quality of the receiving water resources into which the stormwater outfalls flow.*



One of the ways to accomplish this goal, the City requires all new development and redevelopment to design, install, and maintain stormwater measures (such as **rain gardens** or **permeable pavement**) to infiltrate, evapotranspire, harvest and/or use **the first inch of every rain event**. But why?

Capturing and treating the first inch from a rain event allows the City to improve the quality of our water resources because the first inch, sometimes called the 'first flush', typically contains the largest amount of pollution. Likewise, controlling and slowing down the first inch reduces the likelihood of downstream flooding and stream bank erosion.

How much is 1 inch of rain?



25 gallons from 10 feet of 4 foot wide sidewalk

748 gallons from a 1,200 Square foot roof

27,154 gallons from a 1 acre parking lot

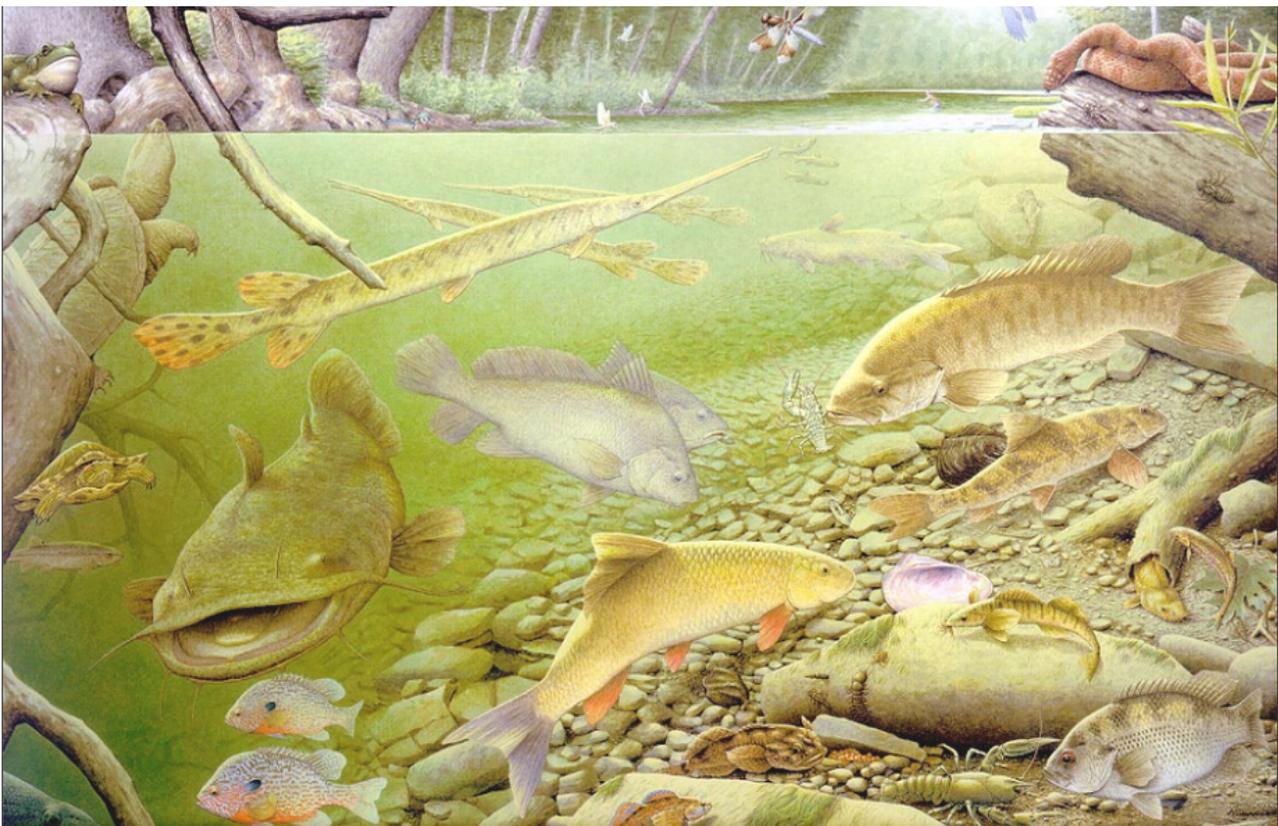


Do you think you know what makes up a river? **Probably not!** A river's ecosystem is part of a integral watershed network where channels and tributaries drain and connect to form a larger network, much like the Harpeth River. This ecosystem is a delicate and complex sum of interactions between the plants, animals, and microorganisms as well as the continual physical and chemical changes.



Water flow, light penetration, temperature, chemistry, stream substrate, bacteria, insects, invertebrate, fish, birds, and other aquatic and terrestrial animals are all critical factors that help to determine the ecological success of a river. They exchange water, materials, energy, and nutrients with the surrounding environment and can be reflections of both the upstream and downstream community. How cool is that!

Franklin's streams are important to our community, which is why **Stormwater Management** strives to maintain and improve the quality of our water resources. Go visit the Harpeth River and see firsthand all the complexities that make our river so unique. You won't be disappointed!





Stormwater Management is happy to host another Environmental Science Day at Aspen Grove Park! Franklin High's AP environmental science students will spend the day learning about stormwater, water quality, water conservation, wetlands, and Tennessee wildlife and vegetation.

Come to Family Day and visit our booth for fun activities and cool giveaways. The Parks Department and Keep Williamson Beautiful will be looking for volunteers to help reforest a parcel of City property along Lewisburg Pike. More details about will be emailed at a later time, so be sure to keep an eye out!

Oct. 8th Aspen Grove
Environmental Science Day

Nov. 2nd Family Day at Harlinsdale

November Parks Department
Tree Planting



If you, your family, local business, or community are interested in volunteering or organizing an event for your watershed please contact Stormwater Management

(615)791-3218

or email Brittani Perez



brittani.perez@franklintn.gov

thank you!

That's all for our fall issue. Stay updated for our winter newsletter in **December!**