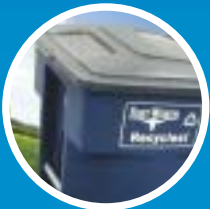


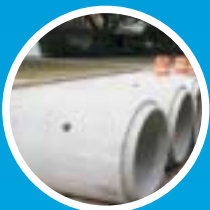
SPRING 2009

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ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE STORM DRAINS

Trash. Car wash suds. Leaves. Pet poop. Grocery carts. Mattresses. Hubcaps. Bowling balls. City workers never know what they're going to find when inspecting Fort Worth's more than 20,000 storm water inlets.

The city's storm drains are designed for rain – and only rain. The drains keep large amounts of water from flooding homes and property during storms. Those rectangular cutouts along streets, known as curb inlets, lead straight to the nearest neighborhood creek, river or lake. Storm water does not go to a treatment facility to be cleaned. So when someone dumps something down a storm drain, the results can be disastrous.

Drainage Problems

Tree limbs, grass clippings, trash and other debris clog storm drains, causing backups. During heavy rains, these backups cause flooding of streets, homes and businesses.

Pollution Problems

Dumping oil, paint or other hazardous chemicals into a storm drain pollutes creeks, rivers and lakes, many of which are our sources of drinking water. The No. 1 pollutant found in Fort Worth storm drains is detergent, which can kill fish and other aquatic life.

What Can You Do to Help?

- > Don't put grass clippings, brush or debris near curb inlets or down storm drains. Use the city's yard waste or bulky item collection system. The city collects these items curbside. Call 817-392-EASY (3279) to find out when grass clippings, brush and bulky items are picked up in your neighborhood.
- > Wash your car at a commercial car wash where dirty water and soap flow to a treatment facility to be cleaned. Or instead of washing your car on the driveway, wash it on the lawn – which acts as a sponge to keep soap, oil and engine grime out of the storm water system.
- > Take leftover household chemicals such as paint, antifreeze, motor oil, cooking oil and batteries to the city's Environmental Collection Center, 6400 Bridge St. Call 817-392-EASY (3279) for operating hours and a complete list of what's accepted or visit www.FortWorthGov.org/DEM/eccpg.htm.



Keeping household chemicals, yard trimmings and other debris out of storm drains will help prevent flooding and ensure that our creeks, rivers and lakes remain clean for wading, fishing, swimming and other recreation. Help spread the word to your neighbors.

Keep an Eye Out for Polluters

If you see someone pouring or sweeping something in a curb inlet, report it to the Pollution Hotline at 817-392-8700.

Callers may remain anonymous.

What to report:

- > A description of the problem, including any information about the pollutant
- > When and where it was discharged
- > Who was responsible (if you know)
- > A license plate number
- > Other important details

Please include your name and phone number, in case we need additional information. Your name will remain secure in our files.

Don't Float Your Cart!

**STORMS EXPECTED?
DON'T PUT YOUR
CART OUT THE
NIGHT BEFORE**

Storms in the forecast may call for a change in when you place your garbage and recycling carts at the curb for collection. Strong winds and fast, moving water can cause carts to tip over and spill their contents in the water flowing down the gutters. The water will carry the garbage bags, recyclables and carts to the nearest inlet, blocking it and causing flooding.

So when storms are in the evening or overnight forecast, wait until morning to set out your carts. Carts should be placed a few inches from the curb or edge of the street, but not in the street, by 7 a.m. on the assigned collection day.



Camelot Channel

Before



After



Maintenance Lets Storm Water Flow

Overgrown storm water channels and creeks pose flooding problems to nearby structures. Residents who live near Camelot Channel know this firsthand. And, that's why city officials believe a strong storm water maintenance program is vital to minimizing flooding in Fort Worth.

City crews worked to restore a section of Camelot Channel to its original design condition. Edges of the channel were within 5 to 10 feet of back yard fences of six residences.

Crews removed the erosion threat, cleared the channel of obstructions and created a channel that can be maintained. Projects like this are going on in every City Council district.

To see the channel rehabilitation in progress, go to www.earth.google.com and type in "Twin Oaks Trail."



Spring Rains Bring Flash Floods

March rains bring May flowers and flash flooding. Each year, flooding claims more lives than any other related incident. That's why the city has installed high-water warning flashers at some of the most dangerous road flooding areas.

When you see the lights flashing, turn around. It only takes a few inches of moving water to sweep a vehicle away.

Follow these simple safety rules:

- > When warning lights are flashing, the road is closed because water is covering the roadway. Turn around.
- > Don't drive around barricades. Water on a roadway can be much deeper than it appears and water levels can rise quickly.
- > Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast.
- > NEVER drive through flooded roadways because roadbeds may be washed out under floodwaters.
- > Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- > If lights are not flashing and water is covering the road, do not drive through water. The best warning system is common sense.

REMAIN SAFE BY BEING ALERT AND CAUTIOUS WHEN FLOODING CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST. TO REPORT FLOODED ROADWAYS, CALL THE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER AT 817-392-8100.

Utility Provides Funds for Capital Improvements

Homes in the Briarhaven-Fieldcrest neighborhood have received repeated flooding and property damage in recent years because of undersized storm drain pipes that were installed when the neighborhood was developed. In fact, during heavy rains, South Hulen Street is often blocked by high water. In order to protect these homes and reduce flooding on Hulen Street, capital improvements were needed. The only problem, funds were limited to construct a project of this magnitude.

The city's two-year-old storm water utility has helped chip away at needed improvements like Briarhaven-Fieldcrest. Funds from the utility are being used to construct new storm drain pipe culverts, box culverts, inlets and junction boxes. These improvements also will require relocation of sanitary sewer pipelines.

Construction has begun and storm drain facilities are scheduled for completion in late spring 2009. Reconstruction of the roadway will be completed by late summer 2009.



Report Flooding

Report flooding of homes, businesses and streets by calling 817-392-8100.

