

Pollution in stormwater contaminates our local streams, the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake. Stormwater pollution results in higher costs for our Water Treatment Plant, harms aquatic life, causes algal blooms, and greatly increases the risk of land flooding by clogging catch basins and storm sewers and creating debris dams in ditches and streams.

This brochure is the part of a series of brochures describing stormwater pollution prevention measures and habits that you can begin to help us keep our waters clean for the benefit of everyone in the City of Gallatin!

For more information about ways you can help to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit our website:

www.gallatintn.gov/1855/Stormwater-Utility

Please also visit UT Extension Sumner County for educational programs in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Residential Horticulture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Community Resource Development, and 4-H Youth Development.

Extension is an outreach branch of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, providing research-based solutions and information to the citizens of Sumner County, Tennessee.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Sumner/>



Rain gardens are a lovely & effective way to manage stormwater runoff in your yard.

Note that grass clippings, yard wastes, and or pesticides that are allowed to enter the public Stormwater drainage system are considered illicit discharges, and per the City of Gallatin Stormwater Ordinance, there are enforcement measures and penalties for illicit discharges.

Engineering—Stormwater Division

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ENGINEERING - STORMWATER
CLEAN WATER | HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

*Stormwater
Best Management Practices
You CAN make a difference!*

**Landscaping,
Mowing, Gardening
& Pest Control**



Safe Environmental Habits and
Methods for:
**Landscapers
Homeowners
Gardeners**



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Challenges

Balancing a beautiful landscape while protecting Old Hickory Lake

Landscaping, grass-cutting and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to stormwater pollution. Soils, yard wastes, grass clippings, over-watering, and garden chemicals become part of the pollution that winds its way through streets, ditches, and storm drains before entering our community waterways.

Poorly functioning sprinklers and over-watering, for example, wastes water and increases the number of pollutants flowing into storm drains.

Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that may be washed off lawns and landscaped areas not only provide nutrients to lawns and kill garden invaders and weeds, they also harm beneficial insects, poison fish, and contaminate our community waterways.

Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street, catch basins, and ditches are also water polluters. These wastes clog catch basins, increasing the risk of flooding. As these “green wastes” decompose, they use up oxygen in water that fish and other aquatic life need to survive.

Solutions

The City of Gallatin depends on all of you, whether you are a resident or a landscape business, to help promote **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) used on lawns, landscaping areas and gardens to keep pollution out of our storm drains and to protect our community waterways.

Included in this brochure is valuable information on important BMPs. We hope you find it useful and educate others on how to create an efficient and environmentally safe lawns and landscape areas.

General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Schedule tilling and digging projects for dry weather.
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.
- Use native or drought tolerant plants

Garden & Lawn Maintenance

- Do not pile, blow, or rake leaves and grass clippings into the street, ditches or storm drains.
- Adjust your sprinkler heads so they water your lawn and plants and not sidewalks or pavement.
- Do not water when it rains since it wastes water and may create additional runoff from your property.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.
- Do not over-fertilize and do not fertilize near streams, ditches or other waterbodies.

Pesticides Alternatives

The “chemicals-only” approach to pest control is only a temporary fix. A more common sense approach is needed for a long-term solution. It is called **Integrated Pest Management** (IPM).

Plan you IPM strategy in this order:

A. Physical Controls

- Caulking holes
- Barriers
- Hand picking
- Traps

B. Biological Controls

- Predatory insects
- Bacterial insecticides

C. Chemical Controls

Use these least-toxic products:

- Dehydrating dusts (e.g., silica gel)
- Insecticide soaps
- Boric acid powder
- Horticultural oils
- Pyrethrum-based insecticides

If You Must Use Pesticides...

Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label.

Read labels! Use only as directed.

Household toxins - such as pesticides, cleaners, and motor oil - can pollute water bodies if disposed of in storm drains. Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Empty containers may be recycled or discarded in the trash.