



Pollution Prevention



The best way to help protect your watershed is to understand what is flowing into your streams and lakes, how it gets there, as well as working to help reduce what causes problems downstream.

Much of what flows into our waterbodies, especially Grand Lake, comes off of the land surrounding it. When it rains, water flows over the land, picking up things like trash, oil, leaves, fertilizer and pet waste. This all ends up in a water body as pollution. This form of pollution is known as non-point source pollution and is the biggest water quality issue in the United States.

Look inside for information on water quality issues in your watershed, specific pollutants that impact water quality and what you can do to help protect your water supply.



GRDA'S WATERSHED CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Guard the Grand

GRDA's Watershed Conservation Program

Common Pollutants

Because pollutants come in many forms, one may not even realize something can cause a problem. Common pollutants such as pet waste can carry harmful bacteria into a body of water, which can eventually flow into a drinking water supply.

Pet Waste

Stormwater picks up pet waste from a yard and carries it along with pathogens, to a water body. Additionally, pet waste can cause algal blooms.



Fertilizers

Phosphorous- and nitrogen-based fertilizers can wash off your yard and into surrounding water bodies. Fertilizers produce the same outcome in water as they do on the land; they make plants grow. More specifically, they help algae grow. This can lead to harmful algal blooms, creating problems for fish and undesirable smells.



Loose Soil

Runoff picks up loose soil and carries it to ponds and other bodies of water. This can cause water quality issues and decrease water storage availability, which increases the risk of flooding.

Car Leaks

Oil and other chemicals leaking from a car are carried into the stormwater system when it rains or you wash off your driveway.



Car Wash Water

Washing your car on your driveway allows the dirt and grease on your car to get carried into a storm drain.

Yard Clippings

Excess leaves and grass from yard work can cause blockages in stormwater drains. Once they flow into the pond, bacteria begins to decompose them. This bacteria requires oxygen, which can reduce the amount of oxygen available for fish.



Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is important to a healthy ecosystem and watershed. Everyone can make an impact by making small changes in the things they do. Learn more about what you can do to make a difference today!

Pick Up Pet Waste

Pet waste can be flushed down the toilet, placed in a trash bin or placed in a compost bin.

Talk to your city or homeowners association about getting pet waste stations installed in your neighborhood.



Cover Up Loose Soil

Avoid yard work before rain. Cover up loose soil and sand or mulch when it's not being used.



Minimize the Use of Fertilizer

By using a mulching mower, you add nutrients to your lawn and reduce the amount of yard waste you produce.

Native plants require little fertilizer and are adapted to Oklahoma's climate, requiring less watering.

If you feel like you need fertilizer, get a soil test. This will tell you the amount and type you need so you aren't over fertilizing.

Check-up on Cars

Repair oil and coolant leaks and properly dispose of auto fluids at hazardous waste drop-off locations.

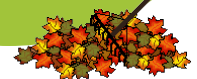


Use a Car Wash

Avoid washing cars on the driveway. Instead take them to a car wash or wash them on your lawn. Also, use a non-phosphorous based soap.

Dispose of Yard Clippings

Keep waste out of the street, gutter and drain. Leaves and grass can be placed in a trash bin for the city to pick up, or better yet, they can be composted to make great mulch!



Other Important Pollution Prevention Techniques

Information Adapted from <https://www.epa.gov/p2> and <http://deq.state.ok.us/CSDnew/p2.htm>

Composting

Compost is decomposed organic waste that can add nutrients to soil. The added nutrients encourage plant growth by improving soil quality and retaining moisture in the soil. It will also decrease soil erosion. To learn more about composting see the Composting Pamphlet.

Litter Pick-up Events

Litter can be prevented by keeping garbage lids closed, not using open-bed trucks to discard trash and throwing waste into receptacles instead of onto the ground. Holding quarterly litter pick-up events can help reduce waste that is already on the ground. Even carrying a trash bag when you go for a walk can make a difference.

Dumping

Never dump trash or unused appliances on the side of the road or in open ditches. It is illegal to dump anywhere besides Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality-permitted facilities. Oklahoma spends \$3.3 million a year picking up roadside litter.

Guard the Grand is an educational program with the goal of fostering an ethic of environmental stewardship in Oklahomans residing in watersheds that flow into Grand Lake O' the Cherokees.

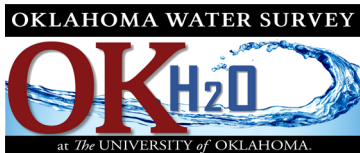
Guard the Grand
420 Hwy 28, PO Box 70
Langley, OK 74350
<https://www.grda.com/guard-the-grand/>
guardthegrand@grda.com

Publication written by:

Jennifer Salvo

Jeri Fleming

Jason Vogel, Ph.D., P.E.



This publication was developed under Assistance Agreement No. NE-01F627-01 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of Grand River Dam Authority and EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned in this publication.

Clipart from: <http://www.clipartpanda.com/> and Cover Photo of dog from Pexels.com