

Storm Water Runoff...

Did you know that our streams and rivers in Oconee County are affected by Storm Water Runoff Pollution each time it rains?

What is Storm Water Runoff?

Simply put, storm water runoff is the rain that hits the ground and flows off streets, rooftops and lawns. This runoff carries untreated pollutants like oil, lawn fertilizers, litter, and other wastes into our storm drains and drainage ditches. The polluted water ultimately flows into our streams, rivers and lakes. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 80 percent of water pollution is caused by storm water runoff.

The Storm Water Pollution Problem:

The problem with storm water runoff is that it may also contain harmful bacteria, toxic chemicals and other contaminants that are harmful to both people and aquatic life.

A common misconception is that storm water running off our streets and into a storm drain will make its way to a wastewater treatment plant. It doesn't! In fact, most storm water receives no treatment at all!

Whose problem is it?

The storm water pollution problem belongs to every citizen in Oconee County. It's our problem because we are the source of the pollutants. Many of the things that we do in our daily lives, whether taking care of our lawns, driving our cars, washing our vehicles, or just walking our pets can contribute to storm water pollution.

Since we are all part of the problem, let's all be part of the solution to making our waterways storm water pollution free. For more information on how you can help, contact:

Oconee County Public Works
Stormwater Management
706-769-2937

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Storm Water Runoff Pollution

- ◆ Never dump anything down storm drains.
- ◆ Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street, gutter, drainage ditches and storm drains.
- ◆ Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly.
- ◆ Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- ◆ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- ◆ Check vehicles for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- ◆ Pick up after your pet.
- ◆ Throw litter in its place.
- ◆ If you wash your vehicle at home, do so on the lawn rather than on pavement.
- ◆ Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.

Distribution of educational material took place on April 15, 2016 through the school system website. An electronic copy of the informational flyer was posted in each elementary school's "Friday Folder" section that has information for parents. In addition to the electronic posting, a hard copy is printed and made available at each school for parents that may not have access to the website. The enrollment for each elementary school is as follows:

Oconee County Elementary School – 439 students
Rocky Branch Elementary School – 766 students
Colham Ferry Elementary School – 529 students
Malcom Bridge Elementary School – 604 students
High Shoals Elementary School – 529 students