

Pollution in storm water 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 increases the risk of land flooding by clogging catch basins and storm sewers.

This brochure is the first 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 Hendersonville!

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

<https://www.hvilletn.org/departments/public-works/stormwater>

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

They are 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/>



City of Hendersonville

Public Works– Stormwater Division

101 Maple Drive North
Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075
p. 615-822-1016

<https://www.hvilletn.org/departments/public-works/stormwater>



City of Hendersonville

**Landscaping,
Gardening & Pest
Control**



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

Stormwater

*Best Management Practices
You CAN make a difference!*



Challenges

Balancing a beautiful landscape while protecting Old Hickory Lake

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

Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street or catch basins 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 Hendersonville depends on all of you, whether you are a resident or a landscape business, to help promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) used on landscaping areas to keep pollution out of our storm drains and to protect our 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 landscaping site.

General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Schedule grading and excavation 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 blow or rake leaves and grass clippings into the street 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 or other water bodies.

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 your 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 toxics - 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.