



### **What is stormwater pollution?**

Stormwater is defined as surface water resulting from rainfall or melting snow. When it rains and you see water running down the curblineline and into the storm drain, that's stormwater. Stormwater pollution results when materials and chemicals get washed into the storm drains and potentially make their way into local bodies of water such as creeks, lakes, and ponds. Some common examples of stormwater pollution are: Trash/litter, Automotive chemicals, Yard clippings, Soapy car wash water

### **Why should you care about stormwater pollution?**

When outside pollutants get mixed into local bodies of water they can cause major damage. Fish and other water dwelling organisms can be killed by the introduction of stormwater pollutants. Even something that seems harmless like grass clippings can bring elevated phosphorus levels into waterways that can be harmful to plants and animals. Many streams and creeks eventually lead back to lakes that are used as drinking water sources, making stormwater pollution an important issue for the environment AND for humans.

### **How do I identify and report stormwater pollution?**

Identifying stormwater pollution is easy if you know what you're looking for. Litter in waterways, excessive oil/chemical residue on pavement, grass clippings blown into the street, anything that might lead to more than just water getting washed into storm drains and local waterways is a potential stormwater pollutant. The City has several ways you can report stormwater pollution. If you have the City of White Settlement App, just click on the "contact us" button and you'll see the option to report a stormwater issue. Or you can go to <https://www.wstx.us/221/Stormwater-Management> and fill out the convenient online form.

