

STORMWATER QUALITY AND YOUR PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEM

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEM IN GREAT SHAPE

Beginning in 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required the City of Moore to regulate water quality within our creeks and drainage ways. A poorly maintained septic system can harm these bodies of water by leaking raw sewage into surface water runoff. Raw sewage contains high levels of nitrogen and bacteria, and when these contaminants are carried to our creeks and ponds by stormwater runoff, the result is water that can't support its usual habitat for life—resulting in dying fish and aquatic plants. Here are some tips for your private septic system:

- Have your septic tank checked by a professional every year
- Have your septic tank pumped every 3-5 years
- Don't put chemicals into your septic system. Household chemicals kill the good bacteria that help your septic system work
- Keep any extra water off the drain field. Divert gutters away from the area.
- Always fix leaks as soon as possible.

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots, gutters, and lawns wash down the storm drains and into our creeks and streams. Unfortunately storm drains do not filter water or debris, and they are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. So any pollutant that flows into the storm drain ends up exactly where it shouldn't be - our creeks, ponds, and lakes.

This is why the cities of Moore, Norman and Oklahoma City have partnered up to create the Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership:



**Lake Thunderbird
Watershed Partnership**



REPORT POLLUTION:

If you see an illicit discharge take place in Moore, please let us know.

Call 405-793-5052 to report a "stormwater violation", or log on to

<https://www.cityofmoore.com/departments/environmental-services>

WHAT IS THE LAKE THUNDERBIRD WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP?

The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership (LTWP) was created in 2017 by the Cities of Oklahoma City, Moore, and Norman. The goal of LTWP is to educate the public about the Lake Thunderbird watershed and ways that they can help improve the lake's water quality through collaborative efforts, activities and events.

HOW IS THE LAKE THUNDERBIRD WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP DEALING WITH THE TMDL?

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality required each of the cities in the LTWP to develop compliance and monitoring plans to describe how we will meet our requirements to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in our stormwater runoff. These plans include a 5-year schedule of monitoring and other activities to meet these requirements.

