

Milton's Stormwater Utility

The City of Milton has taken a proactive approach to addressing stormwater runoff issues. In compliance with state and federal regulations (National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System Permit), the City administers an aggressive stormwater management/ utility program.

Stormwater runoff pollution is often called non-point source pollution. It is basically rain water that becomes polluted once earthbound, and the pollution occurs from many sources. Sources of stormwater pollution are driveways, streets, parking lots, construction sites, agricultural fields, lawns, pet waste, failing sewer systems, leaking septic tanks, and illicit discharge- such as dumping motor oil down a stormdrain. Pollutants of concern include but are not limited to oils, grease, sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, debris and litter. Stormwater runoff can wash these pollutants through the stormdrain system and into local streams and drainage basins. Please remember, stormwater runoff does not flow to a treatment plant; it flows directly into our surrounding bodies of water. Stormwater runoff from the City of Milton ultimately reaches the waters in which you fish, swim and recreate. Therefore, it is imperative to implement best management practices to better manage stormwater runoff. Milton's growth and subsequent change in land use created the need for an effective stormwater management program. A clean water supply is critical for our drinking, our industry and our recreation. The City of Milton, mandated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) developed a stormwater management program. The program addresses water quality by reducing non-point source pollution to local waters. The Stormwater Management Program is comprised of the following six measures:

- **Public education and outreach**
- **Public involvement / participation**
- **Illicit discharge detection and elimination**
- **Construction site runoff control**
- **Post-construction runoff control**
- **Good housekeeping / pollution prevention for City facilities**

NPDES - Stormwater Management

What is stormwater?

According to the Journal of Stormwater, the definition of stormwater is: "Precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and stormwater systems during and immediately following a storm event."

How does it affect residents and visitors of Milton?



The stormwater affects the residents and visitors of Milton directly. The water will follow the easiest path to be able to make it back to the recharge zone. The recharge zone can be the water table, the Blackwater River, Gulf of Mexico, the bay and the bayous. All the residents and visitors leave behind pollution even if they do not realize it and this pollution will eventually end up in our local water ways.

The best possible method for water to return to a recharge zone is to be able to percolate down through the soil and back into the system. If water flows along an impervious path, it will pick up pollution, such as oil, debris, and pesticides for example.

What can we do about it?

Milton is surrounded by bodies of water and we can help educate one another on best management practices (BMP). If you see anyone polluting our roads, waters or anywhere, REPORT IT!

Leadership's vision for the City of Milton's Stormwater Management Program is to promote and maintain environmentally safe, healthy and sustainable waterways that can be enjoyed by all.

The mission of the City's Stormwater Utility is to provide technical and stormwater assistance services to encourage solutions for protecting

human lives, property, conserving natural resources, and promoting appropriate public use of local waters. Managing stormwater is difficult, but the City of Milton strives to make sure stormwater is treated and promotes best management practices.

Did you know?

- At least 50% of the water quality problems in the U.S. result from stormwater runoff, or what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calls, "nonpoint source pollution".
- Approximately 70% of all storm drains lead directly to rivers, lakes and estuaries and are never treated.
- Five quarts of used motor oil can create an oil slick two football fields in size.
- Yard fertilizer runoff from residential areas is estimated to be responsible for one third of the excess nitrogen polluting our waterways.
- The first inch of runoff generally carries 90% of the pollution from a storm.
- Storm drains do not go to sewage treatment, they lead directly to bodies of water.
- Storm drains do not remove pollutants from stormwater and were designed for the specific purpose of draining water from sidewalks and streets to prevent flooding.
- Water entering storm drains after it rains, picks up what is on the surface and carries it directly to our local bays and Gulf of Mexico, untreated.
- Tire wear, deteriorating brake pads, leaks of motor oil, antifreeze, battery acid, fuel, car waxes, degreasers, radiator flushes, and rust preventatives can all contribute to stormwater pollution.
- Grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, fertilizers, soaps, detergents, cigarette butts, and other debris are considered pollutants that get washed into storm drains and on into our local bodies of water.
- Pollutants that contaminate stormwater are mostly considered to be non-point source pollution (surface runoff).
- 16 times more stormwater runoff is produced by a one acre parking lot than is produced by a meadow of the same size.

ENHANCE ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

The definition for illicit discharge is, "any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater..." so any items such as:

- sanitary wastewater
- effluent from septic tanks

- **car wash wastewater**
- **improper oil disposal**
- **radiator flushing disposal**
- **laundry wastewaters**
- **spills from roadway accidents**
- **improper disposal of auto and household toxics**
- **A few exceptions include discharges from firefighting activities**
- **NPDES-permitted industrial sources**

You can help keep Milton's waters clean by:

- **If you see others dumping items, such as motor or boat oil, down a storm drain, let them know where and how can properly dispose.**
- **Call the City of Milton's Planning Department at 850-983-5440 and make a report.**