YOU CAN HELP MAKE CLEANER CREEKS

Tulsa’s storm sewers are designed to divert excess rainwater to creeks that flow into local rivers and creeks. It is important to protect the quality and control the quantity of the water flowing into the drainage system.

City workers monitor the system regularly for oil and grease, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment. Crews routinely remove debris from drains and sewers to prevent water from backing up into streets and homes.

Littering and dumping yard wastes and household fluids down storm drains can cause blockages between scheduled maintenance and is illegal.

Here are steps you can take to protect Tulsa’s creeks. These actions also will beautify neighborhoods and reduce flood risks.

- Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks.
- Don’t pour used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other pollutants into storm drains. Contact the Metropolitan Environmental Trust for proper disposal methods and locations at (918) 584-0584 or www.metrecycle.com.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read labels to determine how much to use and when to apply. The Master Gardener program has volunteers trained to answer questions about pesticides and fertilizers. Call the Master Gardener Hotline at (918) 746-3701 or www.tulsamastergardeners.org.
- Use a mulching mower or bag grass and leaves instead of blowing them into streets. Yard wastes can clog storm drains and can reduce the amount of oxygen in the water. Fish need oxygen to survive.
- Pick up litter around your home or business so that it doesn't collect on drain inlets or clog sewer pipes. If you see someone littering, report the incident to the Oklahoma Litter Hotline, 1-888-5-LITTER.
- If you spot a blocked drain or notice illegal dumping, call the City’s Customer Care Center at (918) 596-2100. Putting foreign substances into the storm sewer is a violation of City ordinance.

Bring Household Pollutants for Disposal at Expo Square

Tulsaans can dispose of household chemicals and toxic hazards in a safe manner at the upcoming Household Pollutant Collection Event.

The two-day event is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, at the Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square), Gate 7. It is co-hosted by 11 local government entities, including the City of Tulsa and the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.).

To deliver items at the event, enter the fairgrounds from 15th Street through Gate 7 for easy access. This event is free to Tulsa-area residents.

Accepted items include household cleaners and toxins, yard-care products and pesticides, acids, caustics, thinners, household flammable liquids, all fluorescent light bulbs, firearms ammunition (.50 caliber or smaller), smoke alarms, thermostats, oil, antifreeze and oil-based, aerosol, and hobby paints. Also accepted are prescription medications. Items brought to this event will be disposed of in a safe, environmentally responsible manner.

Items NOT accepted at the event include latex paint, commercial waste, radioactive waste, pressurized gas cylinders, water reactive chemicals, explosives and dioxins. Latex paint can be disposed of safely by opening the container and allowing the paint to dry completely. Refuse collectors will accept dried latex paint cans in plastic trash bags in refuse containers.

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The City of Tulsa’s offices will be closed for Veterans Day and the Thanksgiving holidays in November and at Christmas in December. Emergency responders, including police and firefighters, will be available as always on those dates. Closings include:
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 -- Veterans Day
- Thursday & Friday, Nov. 27-28, 2014 -- Thanksgiving
- Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 24-25, 2015 -- Christmas
- Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 -- New Year's

Many questions can be answered, problems reported, utility bills paid, etc., online at www.cityoftulsa.org.
November Utility Bills Reflect Water & Sewer Rate Changes

Rising operating costs and replacing aging infrastructure, as well as an increase in the cost of emergency medical services, are the reasons Tulsa utility customers will see an average increase of 8.7 percent on their City of Tulsa utility bills beginning in November.

The Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority proposed, and the Mayor and City Council approved, increases of 7 percent for water and 9.75 percent for sewer services as part of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Also approved was a 9 percent increase in the stormwater rate.

The cost of emergency medical services, which subscribers pay on their utility bills, is rising from $3.64 per month to $5.45. That increase actually took place in September and is reflected on the October 2014 bills. The fee pays for some of the charges for ambulance and emergency medical services, not otherwise covered by insurance, provided by first responders from the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the Tulsa Fire Department.

Below are examples of the effect on the City of Tulsa monthly utility bills for single-family residential customers with low, average and high use levels. These numbers reflect all of the increases in water, sewer, stormwater and emergency medical service charges on the bills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage Level</th>
<th>Old Rate</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>$54.13</td>
<td>$58.91</td>
<td>$4.78</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$83.86</td>
<td>$91.13</td>
<td>$7.27</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>$113.59</td>
<td>$123.35</td>
<td>$9.76</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Examples reflect standard solid waste service of one 96-gallon refuse cart collected once weekly at $15.52 per month.