

# 01 SAVE OUR STREAMS

KEEP STORM SEWERS POLLUTANT-FREE

The City of Tulsa's storm sewer system is the series of outside drains located in our streets that route rainwater to creeks, lakes and rivers. The water that goes into these drains is not cleaned or treated before it reaches them. This makes it very important to not let pollutants spill on the ground and enter our storm sewer system.

City workers regularly monitor the system for pollution. Crews also routinely remove debris from drains and sewers to prevent water from backing up into streets and homes. It is illegal to introduce pollutants into the system. Pollutants include lawn chemicals, car fluids, soaps, leaves and grass, pet waste and basically anything that isn't pure rainwater.

It is important to protect the quality and control the quantity of the water flowing into the drainage system. Here are steps you can take to protect Tulsa's creeks and reduce flood risks.

- **Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks. Don't pour used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other pollutants into storm drains. Instead, take these chemicals to the Household Pollutant Collection Facility. For more information, call (918) 591-4325.**
- **Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer, throw it in the trash or bury it in the yard to prevent harmful bacteria from entering our storm sewer system.**
- **Use a mulching mower or bag grass and leaves instead of blowing them into streets. Yard wastes clog storm drains and deplete oxygen in the water. Fish need oxygen to survive.**
- **Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read labels to determine how much and when to apply. If you have questions, call a Tulsa County Master Gardener at (918) 746-3701 or visit [www.tulsamastergardeners.org](http://www.tulsamastergardeners.org)**
- **Pick up litter around your home or business so that it doesn't collect on drain inlets or clog sewer pipes.**
- **Report storm drain issues such as blockage, improper disposal of yard wastes and/or illegal fluid discharges by calling 311 or visiting [www.Tulsa311.com](http://www.Tulsa311.com)**



## IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

### 01 KEEP STREAMS CLEAN

Prevent stormwater pollution. Storm sewers drain to creeks and rivers.

### 03 RECYCLING MADE EASY

Keep your Focus on the Four for recycling. Check out [www.tulsarecycles.com](http://www.tulsarecycles.com)

+ **PLUS: PREPARE FOR SUMMER HEAT HEALTH RISKS**

### 02 HELP REDUCE OZONE

On Ozone Alert! days, drive less and avoid using gas-powered lawn tools.

### 04 USING WATER WISELY

Learn ways to conserve water both inside and outside your house.

[WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG) | [TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG](mailto:TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG) | CALL 311



# 02 OZONE ALERT!

TAKE ACTION ON OZONE ALERT! DAYS

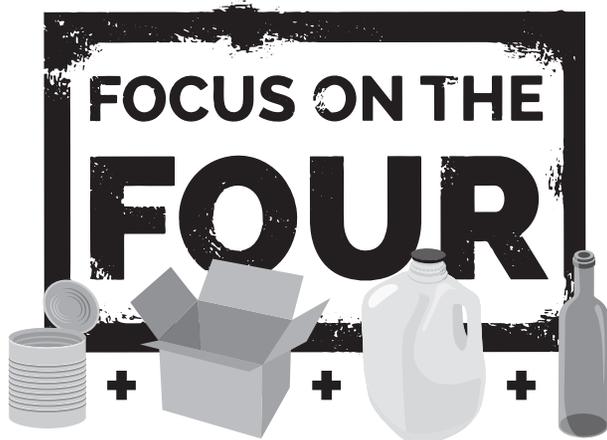
With summer comes Tulsa's Ozone Alert! season. Although ozone is a protective element in the upper atmosphere, it can cause health problems when it's in the air we breathe at ground level.

Ground-level ozone forms when emissions from sources such as cars, trucks, gasoline-powered equipment, and household paints, stains and solvents, combine with other pollutants and "cook" in the heat and sunlight.

When air pollution and weather conditions favor the formation of unhealthy ozone, Tulsa issues an Ozone Alert! On those days, children, the elderly and individuals with asthma are especially at risk. You can help reduce ozone in the following ways:

- **Try leaving your car at home. Bike, walk or ride the bus.**
- **If you must drive, try carpooling, combining errands and limiting trips.**
- **Avoid the drive-through and unnecessary idling.**
- **Postpone refueling your vehicle until evening – or not at all.**
- **Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden tools.**

Sign up to receive Ozone Alert! Day text notifications by texting the word "ozone" to "41411". For more information, visit [www.ozonealert.com](http://www.ozonealert.com)



### 03 FOCUS ON THE FOUR

KEEPING IT SIMPLE WHEN RECYCLING

Did you know that in 2017, Tulsa residents recycled 20,206 tons of recyclable materials? Good job, Tulsa! The City of Tulsa and Tulsa Authority for Recovery of Energy would like Tulsa residents to recycle even more this year.

Recycling in Tulsa is as easy as putting items in the blue recycling cart and making sure the cart is at the curb on collection days. Tulsa residents are putting more in their recycling carts; however, what goes into the recycling carts needs to be what is actually recyclable through the City's system.

Too many of the wrong items landing in recycling carts cause "contamination" when loads are processed at the recycling center. A high contamination rate costs the City (and residents) money. If we're able to recycle more of the correct items, the City of Tulsa can save money on recycling processing fees. This keeps your trash rates down.

Tulsa's recycling system is as simple as remembering to "Focus on the Four," summarized as four groups of items:

- Steel and aluminum cans
- Rigid plastics (#1-7 only)
- Cardboard and paper
- Glass jars and bottles

If you have a question about what can be recycled, visit [www.tulsarecycles.com](http://www.tulsarecycles.com) or call (918) 596-9777.

### BEAT THE HEAT

KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN TEMPS SOAR

Tulsa's social service and government agencies work together each summer to monitor heat conditions and minimize the effects of high temperatures on citizens. Still, it's important for all Tulsans to know how to handle the heat. People of all ages who work or play outdoors are vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Even in-shape athletes can fall victim to the heat.

Children and the elderly especially can be affected, warns the Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA). Be sure to visit older, at-risk adults at least twice a day and watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. If their home is too hot or you are worried about their transportation options, take them to air-conditioned locations.

EMSA cautions parents, caretakers and athletic coaches to take the heat seriously and understand that Oklahoma's hot temperatures can be deadly.

Vigorous outdoor activities, including football practices and similar activities, should be interspersed with frequent cooling breaks and participants should drink water or sports drinks. Also, avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps.

Call 911 immediately if you see the symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke in a relative, friend, co-worker or yourself. Also, supervisors and workers who work outdoors in extremely hot environments should watch for heat-related symptoms and illnesses and call for medical assistance if needed.



### 04 WATER CONSERVATION

SMALL STEPS CAN SAVE WATER, MONEY

Although the City of Tulsa has a plentiful water supply, homeowners can still take steps to reduce their water usage. Saving water around your home is simple and smart. Minor adjustments to your house and your behavior can work wonders. Here are a few tips to conserve water:

#### INSIDE:

- **Fix leaks immediately. A faucet leak can waste 20 gallons per day; a toilet leak can waste 200 gallons per day.**
- **Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving to save 5 to 8 gallons per day.**
- **Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath to save 50 gallons of water. If you take a bath, plug the tub immediately and adjust water temperature as the tub fills.**
- **Installing low-flow faucet aerators, faucets, shower heads and toilets can reduce water usage by 5 to 20 percent. Look for WaterSense® labeled devices.**
- **Replace old dishwashers or washing machines with new ENERGY STAR® models. If you can't replace machines, wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, or lower the water temperature setting.**

#### OUTSIDE:

- **Water in the morning to prevent water loss by evaporation. Avoid watering when it is windy.**
- **Maintain or upgrade your automatic irrigation system to reduce water waste. Check sprinkler patterns to make sure you're not watering the street or sidewalk.**
- **Use a hose nozzle with shut-off when watering manually, and use soaker hoses for trees and shrubs.**
- **Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of a water hose.**
- **Use climate-appropriate and native species in landscaping. Use mulch around plants to help reduce evaporation.**

#### MORE TIPS:

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)