



# gwinnettcounty

## Department of **Water Resources**

### **Stormwater Drains are Just for Rain**

The stormwater drainage system – which includes storm drains, gutters, and ditches – collects stormwater runoff and carries it directly to the nearest stream or water body. This stormwater drainage system is not connected to the sanitary sewer, meaning water that enters the drains does not go to a wastewater treatment plant.

As stormwater runoff travels to the stormwater drainage system, it picks up pollutants that are on the ground and transports this pollution directly to the streams. This discharge of pollutants, or any dumping of anything other than rainwater into the stormwater drainage system is called an illicit discharge. Many seemingly harmless activities that we engage in every day can result in an illicit discharge, including: washing paint brushes and pouring the water on the ground, changing motor oil and allowing it to drain onto the ground, dumping yard waste, and washing cars on a driveway.

Preventing illicit discharges is especially important in Grayson. Drinking water for Walton County (from Bay Creek) and Rockdale County (from Big Haynes Creek) is drawn from water that flows out of Grayson. Remember, pollution from illicit discharges flows away from us downstream, but towards someone else — stormwater drains are just for rain! Less polluted surface waters lead to better public health and lower water treatment costs downstream. Here are a few tips to keep the water in Grayson safe and clean:

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Check vehicles for leaks and repair them quickly
- Compost yard waste instead of dumping it over the fence, in the ditch or down the storm drain
- Wash paint brushes and supplies over an indoor drain and solidify any waste paint for disposal

The city of Grayson partners with the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources (GC DWR) to protect the stormwater drainage system in the city. If you see an illicit discharge, please report it to GC DWR at 678.376.7000.

We appreciate your help in keeping Grayson's waterways clean and healthy!

