Stormwater vs. Sewer: What's the difference?

Stormwater management plays an important role in Grayson's environmental health. It's not just the responsibility of the city to keep our waterways clean, residents can help, too. By learning how the stormwater system works you can take steps to prevent pollution. The stormwater drainage system is often confused with the sewer system. In fact, these systems are separate and very different.

Sewer systems collect wastewater directly from homes and businesses and directs it to a treatment facility. At the facility, the wastewater undergoes treatment to remove contaminants before being safely returned to the environment.

Stormwater systems are designed to manage rainwater runoff to prevent flooding. Unlike sewer systems, stormwater is not filtered. If contaminants are allowed to enter a storm drain it can lead to water pollution.

An illicit discharge occurs when anything other than rainwater enters a storm drain. Common discharges include soapy water, pet waste, used motor oil, and yard trimmings. The city of Grayson has the Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance, which prohibits these discharges.

You can help prevent stormwater pollution by following these simple tips:

• Compost yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves
• Wash your car over grass or gravel
• Fix leaky vehicles
• Pick up after your pets

For more information about protecting our water resources visit the Get Educated page at www.Gwinnetth2o.com

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