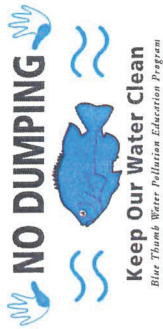


Dear City of Lawton Resident:

Blue Thumb volunteers have marked storm drain inlets in your neighborhood with the pollution prevention message:



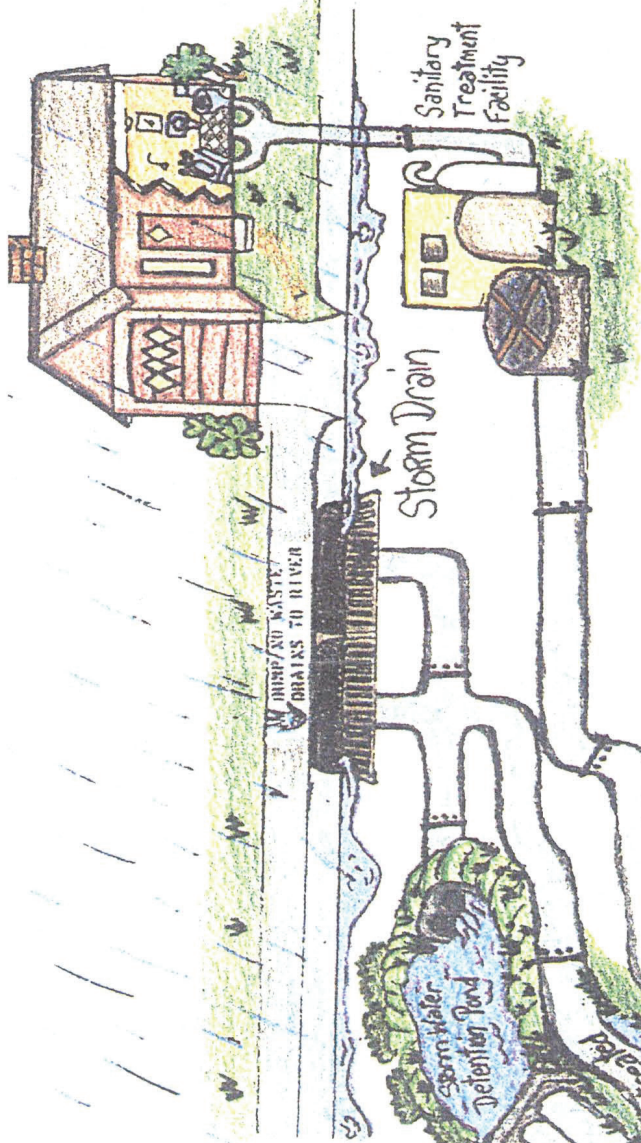
This message is to remind us to protect our neighborhood ponds and streams, which provide homes for wildlife and drinking water for downstream communities.

### Storm Drain System

When rain or snow falls, or water is released, this water washes over our streets, driveways and yards and then is collected in storm drain inlets, ditches, creeks and detention ponds. This water, called runoff, travels across the land or in underground pipes. Runoff passes untreated into our neighborhood creeks and streams. All of these water collection devices are part of the storm drain system.

### What Ends Up in the Streams?

If you live within the Lawton City Limits, your city has a storm drain system and a sanitary sewer system. Water moves through both of these systems to the streams. The sanitary sewer system treats waste water before releasing it to the stream. The storm drain system does not treat stormwater and can carry nonpoint source pollution directly to the streams.

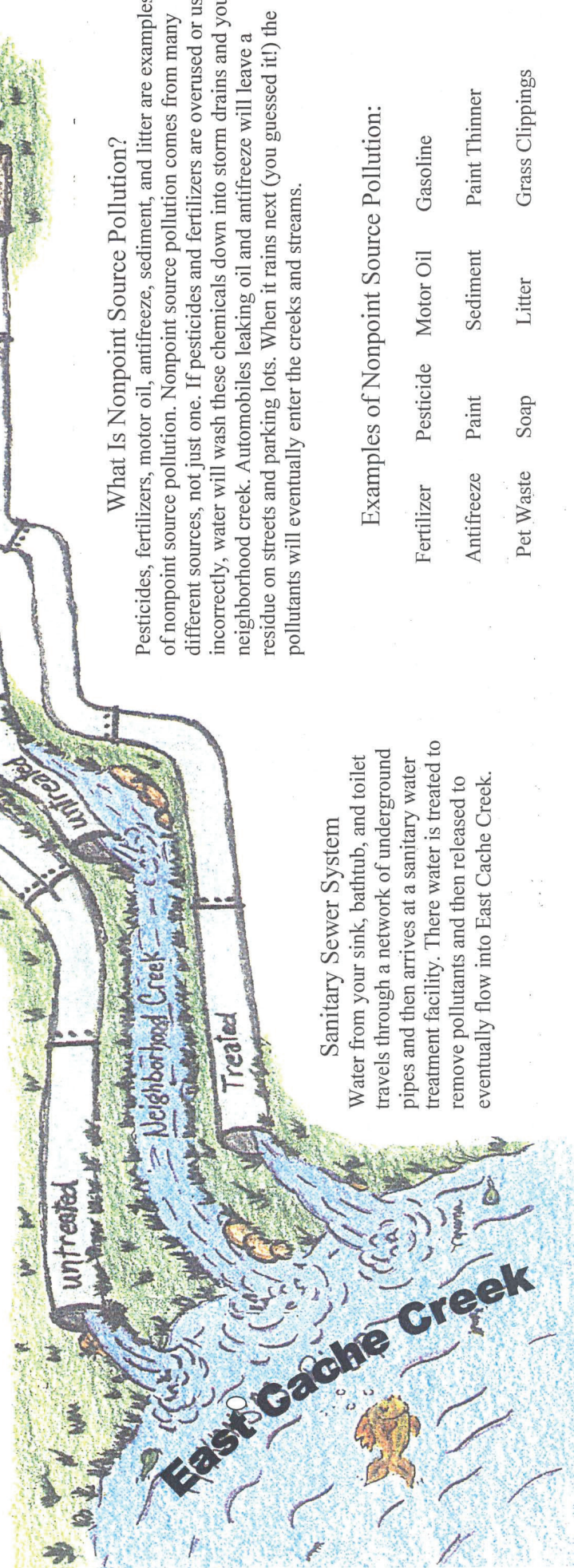


### What Is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, antifreeze, sediment, and litter are examples of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution comes from many different sources, not just one. If pesticides and fertilizers are overused or used incorrectly, water will wash these chemicals down into storm drains and your neighborhood creek. Automobiles leaking oil and antifreeze will leave a residue on streets and parking lots. When it rains next (you guessed it!) the pollutants will eventually enter the creeks and streams.

### Sanitary Sewer System

Water from your sink, bathtub, and toilet travels through a network of underground pipes and then arrives at a sanitary water treatment facility. There water is treated to remove pollutants and then released to eventually flow into East Cache Creek.



### Examples of Nonpoint Source Pollution:

- Fertilizer
- Pesticide
- Motor Oil
- Gasoline
- Antifreeze
- Paint
- Sediment
- Paint Thinner
- Pet Waste
- Soap
- Litter
- Grass Clippings

## Help Keep Lawton's Water Clean

- Recycle oil, antifreeze, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, paint and other household pollutants. Call the City of Lawton Wastewater Treatment Plant at 581-3445 or Landfill at 581-3468.
- Obtain a soil test to find out how much fertilizer your lawn needs before you apply it. Call OSU Extension at 355-1176 for details.
- Follow instructions carefully before applying pesticides and disposing of the containers.
- If you see or know of someone who is illegally dumping trash and debris, note the vehicle tag number, time, date, location and report them to Neighborhood Services at 581-3467.
- If you notice sediment (dirt) running off into the street please call the Stormwater Quality Hotline at 581-3565.
- Maintain your car to prevent oil and other automotive fluids from leaking.
- Try alternative products and techniques for lawn care and household cleaning that are less toxic. Call OSU Extension at 355-1176 or the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 581-3445.
- Help reduce litter through education and cleanups. Call Blue Thumb for more details on cleanups at 353-1564.
- Mark Storm Drains! Contact Blue Thumb at 353-1564 or City of Lawton Stormwater Quality Management at 581-3478.

## NO DUMPING KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

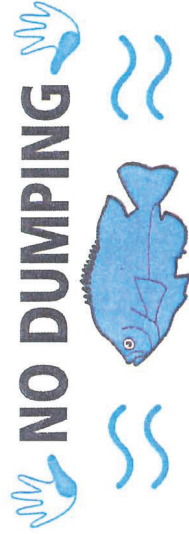
Volunteers who left this letter for you have marked your neighborhood storm drain inlets. They are part of a county wide network of people helping to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality awareness in Comanche County. Consider your storm drain, your lawns, and driveways as the banks of the streams, creeks and rivers.

For more information about Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Project and nonpoint source pollution, contact us at:

Natural Resources Conservation  
Service at 353-1564.

Blue Thumb Sponsors:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Comanche County Conservation District  
Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
OSU Extension Service  
City of Lawton



**Keep Our Water Clean**  
*Blue Thumb Water Pollution Education Program*



# NO DUMPING KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

Give Lawton's Water a Hand

Comanche County Conservation District 353-1564  
City of Lawton Stormwater Quality Management 581-3478

