

City of Lawton STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



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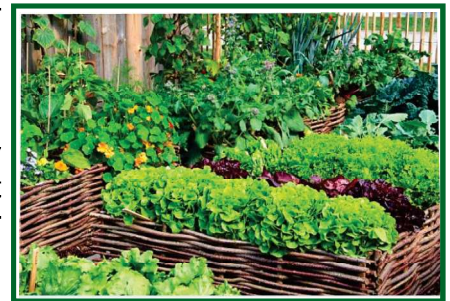


10 Environmental New Year's Resolutions

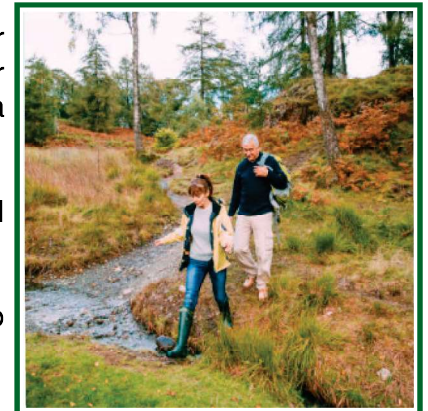
First of all, what is a New Year's resolution? A New Year's resolution is commonly defined as *"a promise that you make to yourself to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year"*. Therefore, when it comes to making New Year's Resolutions, you probably aren't surprised to learn that some of the top resolutions include losing weight, traveling, buying a house or a car, finding love and making more money. What about resolutions that are also good for the environment?

If you are looking to make some New Year's Resolutions that can be good for both you and the environment, here are some of my favorites:

1. Grow your own organic herbs/vegetables. This can also be tied into eating healthier. If you grow your own herbs and vegetables you don't have to worry about chemicals put on them, you know what you are getting and you couldn't ask for fresher produce. Rain barrels provide a free water source for your garden.



2. Cut down your vehicle's harmful emissions. Get an electric vehicle or hybrid vehicle. If you can't afford to get a new vehicle, do something to cut down your vehicle's harmful emissions like using a proven fuel additive to lower your emissions. Also, if you have never used public transportation, make a resolution to leave your vehicle at home a few times a week and give it a try.



3. Be more aware of your water usage. Just resolving to be more aware, will probably help you cut down on your water usage.

4. Involve your whole family in energy conservation. Encourage children to make sure lights are off to prevent wasting power.

5. Spend more time outdoors. Go for a walk, take your kids to the park, go camping, go to the beach, go for a nature hike, explore someplace you've never been, etc. Getting outside and enjoying nature is good for you and the more you become aware of nature, the more you will respect it and help ensure others can enjoy it too.

6. Donate items you don't need/use. How many items, whether food, clothes, kitchen supplies, etc do you have lying around your house that you don't actually use? Why do you still have them? Try something, go through and donate all the things you don't actually use. Holiday items aside, if you haven't used something in the last six months are you really going to miss it? If you won't, then donate it.

7. Volunteer. Helping a good cause or helping others in need is a smart resolution. Giving to others should be the spirit year-round, not just during the holidays. So much can be accomplished with just a little donated time from each of us. The City of Lawton has several ways you can volunteer such as stream clean-ups and storm drain marking.

8. Use natural cleaning products instead of chemicals to clean your home. Natural cleaners are better for you, your home and the environment. They are a smart resolution all around.

9. Decide to install a rain barrel. Whether you just want to do it to save money on outside watering or you want to do something better for you and the environment or a combination of both. There are many different options available.

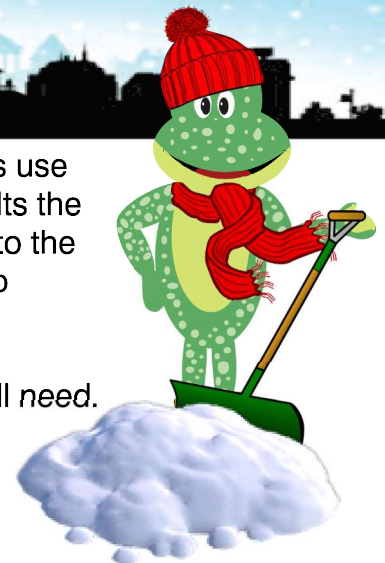
10. Buy less/use less. Starting with this resolution alone, you could jump-start the rest of your New Year's resolutions. It helps when it comes to losing weight, when it comes to saving money, helps be more environmentally-aware, etc.

Have you laid out your New Year's resolutions? Are any of these on your list? Stormwater Management would love to hear what resolutions you have decided upon to help you and the environment around you. Share them with us on Facebook. - **Happy New Year!**



Stormwater pollution is a year-round concern. Municipalities and residents use sand and salt to control roadway and sidewalk issues but after the ice melts the remaining materials can enter into our local waterways and pose a threat to the health of our streams and aquatic life. Please consider the following tips to manage snow and ice:

- ❄ Shovel early. The more snow and ice you remove, the less salt you will need.
- ❄ Dispose of shoveled snow in vegetated areas; never dump in streets or streams.
- ❄ More salt does not mean more melting. Apply appropriately, salt takes time to work. Consider using a hand-held spreader to apply a consistent amount and sweep up excess salt.
- ❄ Use safe and effective alternatives in appropriate amounts. Sand and kitty litter are effective but can clog sewers and degrade aquatic habitats when washed away. Also consider salt-free de-icer.



Give Stormy and the Area Creeks a Hand

Get involved by participating in a stream clean-up or storm drain marking event.

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Visit the Stormwater Website

Information about stormwater regulations, program updates and upcoming projects can be found online at <https://www.lawtonok.gov/departments/stormwater-management>
City of Lawton Environmental Service's facebook page to receive conservation and pollution prevention tips.

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