OEQ News!

City of Dallas

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August 2008

National Water Quality Month

Texas Stream Team: Local Heroes

By Richard Smart

-Richard Smart is an environmental coordinator with the City of Dallas Stormwater Department

For the last four years a successful partnership between the City of Dallas and Texas State University – San Marcos has taken place. The team has come together to facilitate the Texas Stream Team volunteer program in Dallas. Texas Stream Team (recently known as Texas Watch), is a statewide network of trained volunteers and supportive partners working together gathering information about our creeks, rivers, and lakes in Texas.

Texas Stream Team

The Storm Water Management Section is the proud facilitator of this program in Dallas. Storm Water Management trains volunteers, records their data, and then Texas State University compiles the information into a database for public availability. The resulting data provides valuable information about the local ecosystem (watershed) for government agencies, waste generators, and the public.

Currently there are 15 sites being monitored by Dallas citizens, with more to come on line. Many of the monitors are individual citizens and there are also two organizations involved with Dallas' Texas Stream Team program. One organization is called For Love of the Lake and they monitor creeks flowing into White Rock Lake. The other organization is the North Texas Master Naturalists, who monitors sites all over the Dallas area. Recently, Sandy Stinson, (a North Texas Master Naturalist) was named the Texas Stream Team volunteer of the month for all of Texas.

Storm Water Management extends a hearty thank you to all the Texas Stream Team volunteers for the time and energy they give to the program. Their valuable contributions to this important program help advance environmental stewardship.

Volunteers are always needed for this rewarding opportunity. To learn more about Texas Stream Team visit: http://txstream-team.rivers.txstate.edu.

To inquire about volunteering with the City of Dallas call Storm Water Management at 214.948.4022; ask to speak with an environmental coordinator.

CITY of DALLAS
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
IT GOES WITH THE FLOW
KEEP IT CLEAN

Dallas: Going Green by Saving Blue

By Carole Davis

-Carole Davis works for City of Dallas Water Conservation.

Remember mixing colors in grade school and how you discovered with glee that yellow and blue produced green? So is the case on this most fundamental level for any environmental or green initiative to succeed. In order to go green, you must have blue—water. City leaders recognized the importance of saving and protecting this precious resource long before "going green" became the current vernacular.

Educational efforts on the need to be water wise began in earnest in the mid 1980's with public outreach messaging in schools, community events and homeowner groups. However, in 2001, the City of Dallas was the first major water provider in the region to adopt an aggressive water conservation ordinance prohibiting water waste as it relates to lawn and landscape irrigation. Aimed at curbing demand on our delivery system during the peak summer months, the ordinance has also served to delay the need to invest in expensive infrastructure expansion.

So what else is Dallas doing to curb waste and maximize its water resources? Plenty. The following measures are a few examples of the city's commitment to water conservation.

Pay For What You Use!

Dallas customers pay more when they use more water. This change in water rate structure happened amid the adoption of the water conservation ordinance. Connecting higher rates to increased consumption discourages customers from wasting water.

Avoiding Leaks, Controlling Losses!

The City makes sure water meters are working properly through routine maintenance. All meters are tested and calibrated in accordance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards to within plus or minus 2 percent. The city maintains a program to pull, test, and replace meters determined to be functioning outside of these parameters. Most residential meters in the City of Dallas are replaced at 15-year or 10-year intervals depending on meter size. Repair or replacement of larger general service meters typically occurs in five-year intervals.

Dallas has an extensive leak detection and repair program and is committed to maintaining a rate of less than 10% for unaccounted-for water losses in its distribution system. Annual unaccounted-for water, determined as the difference between treated water pumped and sold, averaged about 10% for the past twelve (12) months. This is below the national average of 12% and within the American Water Works Association goal of 10% for unaccounted-for water losses.

Leadership, Education, and Incentives!

Adopted in 2005, the City's Five-year Strategic Plan on Water Conservation is based on a three-pronged approach—City Leadership & Commitment, Enhanced Education & Outreach and Rebate & Incentives.

The city "leads by example" by reducing the amount of water consumed by city operations. Targeted inspections and proper maintenance of city irrigation systems have resulted in an estimated water savings of 31 million gallons annually.

The Dallas public education campaign utilizes a multi-

Dallas: Going Green by Saving Blue *continued*

media approach to promote water conservation principles and methods. Additionally, in 2006, the Department of Sanitation and Dallas Water Utilities partnered to launch the Environmental Education Initiative (EEI). Offered in Dallas and Richardson school districts, the program offers a structured K-12 curriculum on the importance of water conservation and solid waste recycling. Dallas kids elected DEW as the city's official water conservation mascot in 2005. This award winning ambassador encourages water conservation through numerous public appearances, public service announcements and his "My Space Page".

Designed to motivate customers to replace and/or retrofit high water use fixtures and devices, Dallas offers several programs to encourage more efficient and productive use of our water resources. The *Minor Plumbing Repair Program* helps low income and elderly clients repair minor leaks and replace high water use fixtures. The *New Throne for Your Home* toilet voucher program offers financial incentives for customers to replace their high water use toilets with more water efficient models. Since inception, both programs have yielded an estimated 17.3 million gallons in water savings annually. Water saving programs are also available for industrial, commercial and institutional customers.

Saving Blue!

These measures have worked in tandem to save some 70 billion gallons since 2001! Using water more efficiently and productively in Dallas has also been proven to contribute to: the protection of environmental flows and to the health of aquatic ecosystems, making water resources available for further growth and development, and conserving energy and other resources and raw materials to improve business profitability.

Dallas is decidedly a greener city today due to its continuing commitment to protecting and conserving the blue. For more information on Dallas' water conservation efforts visit www.savedallaswater.com.

GREEN TIP: No Dumping!

Trinity Trudy asks, "Where does it go?"

What goes in the storm drain, goes straight into the local creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River!

MOTOR OIL:

Harmful for humans, plants, animals, and fish, motor oil can be recycled! Never dump it on the streets because the metals in it from the car engine are poisonous to wildlife! Also, maintaining your car to avoid leaks helps prevent storm water pollution. What goes in the street washes down the storm-drains into the TRINITY RIVER!

SOAP:

One gallon of liquid soap washed down a storm-drain can pollute up to 200,000 gallons of water! Chemicals in the soap are harmful to wildlife, so wash your car at the CAR WASH, not in the driveway!

PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS:

Nationally, one fourth of the pollutants found in rivers and streams originate from residential use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These materials can enter into the storm drain system through excessive lawn irrigation and from heavy rains or put directly into waterways through illegal dumping!

GRASS CLIPPINGS:

Please do not sweep or blow your grass clippings in the streets or storm drain because they clog up the drains! Put them back on your yard for natural fertilizer. Or, you can take them to any of the city's three transfer stations or McCommas bluff landfill.

http://www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation/grass_clippings.html

For more information about Water Quality see,

http://www.wheredoesitgo.com/

August Training: Environmental Courses

Please **RSVP** by emailing William Brewer at: **william.brewer@dallascityhall.com**

A class will be cancelled if there are less than 5 RSVPs. All classes for City of Dallas employees. Brown Bags are open to the public..

Right-to-Know (RTK 101)

Date: August 4, 2008

Time: 9-10 am

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: "**Right to know**" is the legal principle that the individual has the right to know the chemicals to which they may be exposed in their daily living. It is embodied in federal law in the United States as well as in local laws. The act created a program with two basic goals:

1. to increase public knowledge of and access to information on the presence of toxic chemicals in communities, releases of toxic chemicals into the environment, and waste management activities involving toxic chemicals; and

to encourage and support planning for responding to environmental emergencies.

Employees will be informed about any and all chemicals, the hazards they pose and the proper protective equipment and/or measures an employee should take when working with these chemicals.

Stage I and II Gasoline Vapor Recovery (TK 103)

Date: August 4, 2008

Time: 10-11 am

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Introduction to Stage I and II, associated equipment, regulations, labeling, recordkeeping, completion of daily checklists, accuracy of tank registration and delivery certificates.

Sustainable Landscaping Brown Bag Luncheon

Date: August 4, 2008

Time: 12:00-1:30 pm

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Susan Gregory will present "Rain Harvesting Tips & Maintaining a Healthy Water Wise Gardenscape", a program about designing and implementing a rain harvesting system that, once established, will allow you to maintain your garden with the ambient rainfall with the occasional supplemental irrigation. Susan is a 27 year Sustainability veteran and Dallas County certified Texas Master Naturalist and Master Gardener. She is State certified in the Rain Harvesting program. She has enjoyed organic gardening in Dallas for 15 years, and is currently doing a green remodel addition to her house on White Rock Lake.

Proper Spill Response (SPL 103)

Date: August 4, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Employees should take all appropriate actions to prevent spills or releases of hazardous materials and respond appropriately if oil or hazardous materials are, or may be, released. The City can achieve this goal through aggressive spill prevention and response contingency planning. This course will cover proper procedure to respond to and report a spill at your facility. An appropriate spill prevention and response plan must be developed and adopted for each workplace where hazardous waste is generated or hazardous materials are stored.

Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan (TK 201)

Date: August 4, 2008

Time: 3-4 pm

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: This class will cover the requirements behind the SPCC plan and the regulations involved. The necessary items to be kept within the plan such as contact information in the event of a spill, employee training records, inspections of petroleum storage tanks and drums, plus actual spill training. Other items to be discussed will be structural regulations such as berms and diking, and any new changes in the regulations.

August Training, continued

Green Building (SPL 105)

Date: August 8, 2008

Time: 8:30 am to 3 pm

Location: L1FN Conference Room

Description: The Green Building will go into detail by describing the complete life cycle of planning, designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining a building through energy, water, and materials efficiency. This efficiency reduces the negative human health and the impact to the environment, and cover the specifics of the Green Building approval process and related requirements for building contractors that have recently been added.

Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) (TK 102)

Date: August 11, 2008

Time: 9 -10 am

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: AST is made of non-earthen materials located on or above the surface of the ground, or on or above the surface of the floor of a structure below ground, such as basement, or vault; and designed to contain an accumulation of petroleum products. This course will cover introduction to AST's, associated equipment, regulations, labeling, recordkeeping, and self certification.

Used Oil (RCRA 102)

Date: August 11, 2008

Time: 10 -11 am

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Requirements for used oil will be discussed regarding proper storage in tanks or drums. Other items to be discussed will be labeling, record keeping, and disposal requirements for departments who do not require RCRA training. Disposal will cover how some used oil can be recycled for re-use, burned for heating purposes, or is so heavily contaminated with metals that it must be disposed of properly.

Waste Disposal and Manifesting (RCRA 203)

Date: August 11, 2008

Time: 2 - 3 pm

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Waste Manifest System is a set of forms, reports, and procedures designed to seamlessly track waste from the time it leaves the generator facility where it was produced, until it reaches the off-site waste management facility that will store, treat, or dispose of the waste. This class covers the proper disposal, manifesting, and recordkeeping of hazardous, non-hazardous, and universal wastes. It will also cover the different types of disposal facilities. E-waste, special, and universal waste will be covered.

Management of Change (EMS 301)

Date: August 26, 2008

Time: 10 am-12 noon

Location: Office of Emergency Management Conference Room

Description: Review of the City's identification and consideration of legal requirements and environmental aspects during the planning and design of new and/or changes to buildings, operations, processes, equipment, maintenance activities, and products. The Management of Change procedure will include the accompanying forms, checklists, and other information to be reviewed.

Be Hydro-Logical : Match the Fact and Action

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/behyrdological.html

A: More water is used in the bathroom than any other place in the home.

B: Today there are many more people using the same amount of water we had 100 years ago.

C: A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,000 gallons/7,600 liters of water a year. A leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons/260 liters of water a day.

D: Lead in household plumbing can get into your water.

E: What's dumped on the ground, poured down the drain, or tossed in the trash can pollute the sources of our drinking water.

F: On average, 50% - 70% of household water is used outdoors for watering lawns and gardens. Lawn and garden pesticides and fertilizers can pollute the water.

H: Although most people get their water from regulated community water supplies, others rely on their own private wells and are responsible for their own water quality.

I: Your city government and state officials regularly make decisions that affect the quality of your drinking water resources.

J: Public water utilities regularly test the quality of the drinking water they provide to customers.

5: Don't waste water. Use it wisely and cut back wherever you can.

1: Reduce your use of pesticides and fertilizers and look for safer alternatives to control weeds and bugs. For example, geraniums repel Japanese beetles; garlic and mint repel aphids; and marigolds repel whiteflies.

4: As the population grows and housing and industrial interest expand, attend local planning and zoning meetings and ask what's being done to protect water resources from contamination. Let elected officials know that you expect them to use their hydro-logic to protect the water.

9: Take used motor oil and other automotive fluids to an automotive service center that recycles them. Patronize automotive centers and stores that accept batteries for recycling. Take leftover paint, solvents, and toxic household products to special collection centers.

3: Check your plumbing and repair any leaks as soon as possible.

7: Call your water utility and ask for a copy of their latest water quality report.

6: Find out if your pipes are lead or if lead solder was used to connect the pipes. If you have lead in your plumbing system, when you turn on the tap for drinking or cooking, let the water run until it's cold. Never use water from the hot tap for cooking or drinking.

8: If you own a well, contact your local health department or Cooperative Extension Service representative to find out how to test the quality of your well water.

2: Turn off the water when you brush your teeth and shave. Install low-flow toilets, shower heads and faucet aerators and you'll save thousands of gallons/liters of water a year. It's a savings that should reduce your water bill.

Answer Key: A2, B5, C3, D6, E9, F1, H8, I4, J7

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OEQ NEWS!

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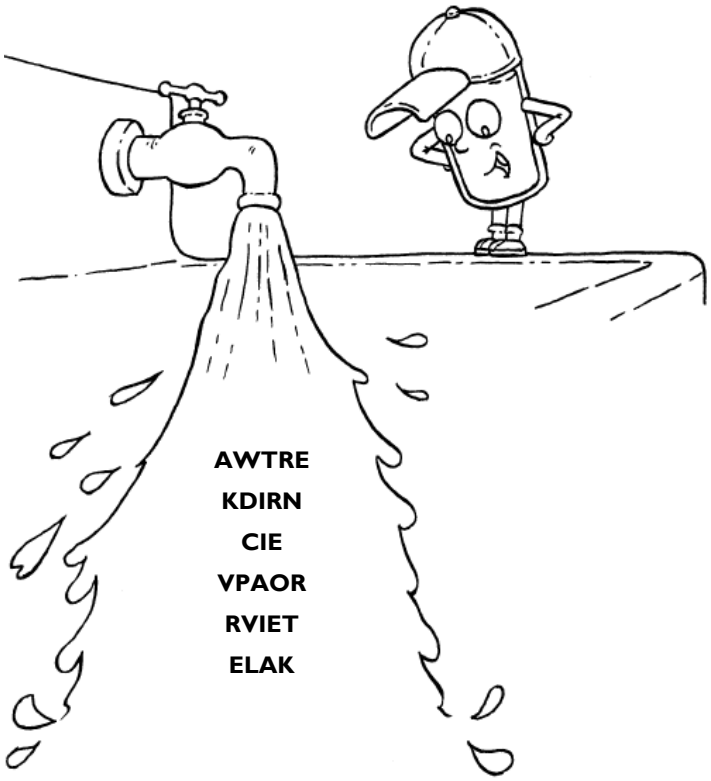
Earth Day Every Day!

OEQ

The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) was formed by the City Council in February 2004 to serve as an internal resource to City of Dallas staff on environmental issues. These issues range from compliance with regulatory requirements to conduct public outreach events and raising awareness related to our environment.

OEQ currently supports the Key Focus Areas of " Staff Accountability" and "Economic Development" in the City of Dallas structure with three services: Environmental Management System, Inspections and Spills, and Outreach and Training.

Unscramble the letters:



1.___ ___ ___ ___ ___

2.___ ___ ___ ___ ___

3.___ ___ ___

4..___ ___ ___ ___ ___

5.___ ___ ___ ___ ___

6.___ ___ ___ ___

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/pdfs/activity_grades_k-3_activitybook.pdf