



City of Titusville

NEWSWATCH

Issue:

19

May 2011

What's the Big Deal about Run Off?

When rain or water from irrigation flows over the ground or your driveway or a parking lot and runs off into our curbs and down into our stormdrains—that is runoff. As the water flows over your property it can pick up all kinds of contaminants including trash, leaves, dirt, fertilizer, pesticides, rubber, pet waste, metal, and oils. These pollutants are then carried into our stormdrains and out into either the Indian River Lagoon or the St. Johns River. Stormdrains don't lead to wastewater plants. So the big deal is that YOU and YOUR HABITS can directly affect the quality of our local waterways.

Simply directing the down spouts on your house's gutters so they flow out to your lawn instead of your driveway can help reduce runoff and thereby reduce the pollutants entering our rivers. You can also install rain barrels and plant rain gardens to capture the runoff from your roof. All of these things will also save on irrigating your lawn.

Maintaining your car to keep oil and other fluids from leaking onto the street and driveway is another way to reduce polluted runoff. If you think of your driveway as a highway to Titusville's stormwater system, it's easy to remember that a leak can hurt our lagoon.

Don't forget that a little reading can help keep our rivers healthy. Read your fertilizer's label to make sure that it contains slow-release Nitrogen and no Phosphorus (that middle number on the bag). Runoff containing these chemicals can cause algae blooms, which can cause fish kills.



Gotta Go?

Dogs can produce about one pound of waste each day. Dog waste is not fertilizer. Just like human waste, dog waste contains numerous bacteria and viruses including fecal coliform bacteria. Leaving dog waste on the ground is bad for your health, your dog's health, and the health of the environment, especially local waterways.

Are You Breaking the Law?

Do you blow your grass trimmings into the curb? Have you ever placed leaves, branches, or other yard waste into a stormdrain? If you have, you may be subject to a fine. Any debris that finds its way into our streets will find its way into our waterways. These pollutants can clog the gills of fish, trigger algae and aquatic weed growth, poison aquatic organisms and shellfish, and rob the water of oxygen. Using stormdrains to dump yard waste also clogs the drains, themselves, causing flooding during heavy storms.

What Do You Do About Fertilizer & Irrigation?

The Brevard County Extension Office and the Program Development and Evaluation Center at the University of Florida have developed the Your Florida Yard and You survey and they want your help. They need to get at least 900 of the surveys completed by August. It's a short survey with multiple-choice questions about your irrigation and fertilizer habits (and if you don't irrigate or fertilize, it won't take you any time at all to complete). You can fill out the survey online at <http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu/evaluation/hoa.pl> or you can stop by and pick up a survey at the City of Titusville Water Resources Conservation Office at the Mourning Dove Water Treatment Plant located at 2836 Garden Street. Call ahead to ensure supplies are available (383-5669). As a thank you for completing the survey, you will receive a Guide to Florida Friendly Landscaping handbook. Remember when you complete the last page of the survey to include your zip code and street name so your input can be applied to your section of Brevard County. Online participants should include their email address so they can receive a certificate that will allow them to pick up their handbook.

Gov TV - Where is it?

The Titusville Government Access Channel may be found on Bright house Digital Cable Channel 199 (or 99.3 With a Digital Cable Ready TV) and on Channel 99 with AT&T's Uverse TV Service. The station can also be found online at Titusville.com/Streaming

Gateway to Nature and Space

For more information on city services, contact: Community Advocate Jim Thomas
ph. 321-383-5718, jim.thomas@titusville.com

"NEWSWATCH" IS PRODUCED BY THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION FOR
THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE