

STORMWATER FACT SHEET

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the primary cause of water quality problems today is not from factories or wastewater treatment plants, but rather from something called “nonpoint source pollution.” Nonpoint source pollution is runoff from rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation. As it flows into drainage ditches, gutters, and storm drains, it picks up products of our everyday activities – oil and gasoline, pet wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, wash water, even soil and yard clippings – and eventually deposits them into our streams and lakes. These pollutants can kill aquatic life, limit the use of our waters for recreational and other purposes, and create unsightly conditions.

Where does your water drain?



To specifically address the problem of nonpoint source pollution, the City of Forest Hills has developed nonpoint source pollution controls aimed at making our waterways more “fishable, swimmable, and environmentally safe.” The state of Tennessee, under the direction of our nation’s Clean Water Act, has issued the City of Forest Hills a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit. This permit makes us responsible for improving and protecting the quality of water allowed to enter “Waters of the State.” This means that the City must reduce pollutants in the storm water system owned or operated by the City that discharges water to area streams, rivers, and sinkholes; otherwise the City will be in violation of the permit. The City has developed a Storm Water Management Program as a guide for citizens, which includes the following practices and procedures that are supplemental to the requirements of the permit.



Stormwater contact numbers

Call **615-383-8447** for any of the following reasons:

- ☞ To report a “new” drainage-related complaint
- ☞ To inquire on the status of previously reported drainage-related complaint
- ☞ To report a storm water/water quality complaint (such as dumping into a catch basin or creek, etc.)
- ☞ To inquire whether a property is in the floodplain
- ☞ To inquire about the status of a grading permit application

Minimizing Storm Water Pollution: *What You Can Do...*

Around the house

- ✓ Use household cleaners that are labeled nontoxic and biodegradable, and use the smallest quantity possible.
- ✓ Properly use and store all toxic products, including cleaners, solvents, and paints. Clean up spills immediately. Follow label directions regarding container disposal or take to a local collection site.
- ✓ Recycle reusable materials, and dispose of litter into trash cans that are tightly covered.
- ✓ Dispose of paint in an environmentally friendly manner. For disposal methods, call the Division of Waste Management of Public Works at 880-8000.



Around the yard

- ✓ Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and in accordance with label instructions. Do not apply if rain is expected or near ditches, gutters, or storm drains. Use products labeled nontoxic, biodegradable, or water-soluble when possible.
- ✓ "Go natural" by using natural fertilizers such as compost or bone meal and natural insect repellents, such as marigolds (for nematodes and white flies), soapy water from dishes (for flowers and roses), or spearmint gum (for moles).
- ✓ Do not over irrigate – this can cause sediment to wash into storm drains.
- ✓ Do not blow, sweep, or rake leaves or grass clippings into gutters or storm drains.
- ✓ Compost yard waste or bag and dispose using solid waste collection programs.
- ✓ Divert rainspouts and garden hoses from paved surfaces onto grass.
- ✓ Pick up animal wastes and dispose of in garbage cans or by flushing down toilets.



Vehicle and boat-related activities

- ✓ Take used motor oil and filters to a participating oil recycling center. For a list of centers and to find out how to dispose of antifreeze, transmission fluids, engine cleaners, and battery acid, call the Division Waste Management of Public Works at 880-8000.
- ✓ Properly maintain your car or boat to reduce leakage of oil and other fluids.
- ✓ Wash cars on lawns or ground rather than paved surfaces to minimize runoff, and use biodegradable, nonphosphate soap.
- ✓ Use marine sanitation devices or pump-out facilities to get rid of boat sewage.
- ✓ When spills occur, use kitty litter, sawdust, or wood chips to soak up fluid and dispose in garbage can.

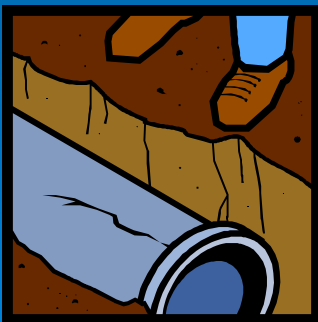
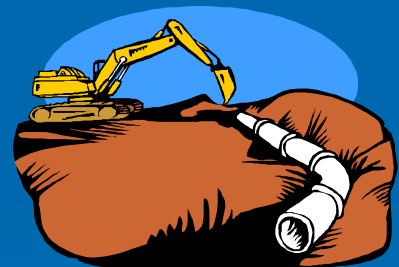


New Land Disturbance Permit *Issuance Process*

As a result of the issuance of the NPDES permit, the following procedure will be implemented for all land disturbance permit applications received on or after December 31, 2005:

1. Land disturbance permit application must be submitted, indicating the name of the certified Erosion Protection and Sediment Control (EPSC) specialist designated for the site (Certification via completion of TDEC EPSC Class);
2. Plans review will be performed by City personnel certified in EPSC;
3. Pre-construction meeting will be scheduled/held with representatives from City of Forest Hills, and applicant;
4. Applicant will be notified that Land Disturbance Permit is tentatively approved pending proper EPSC installation (Barring unforeseen circumstances, this letter will be provided at the pre-construction meeting to facilitate the process);
5. EPA measures must be properly installed on site as per plans;
6. After installation of EPSC measures, notify the City of Forest Hills that inspection can occur;
7. Certified City personnel will inspect site for proper EPSC installation; and,
8. If site passes inspection, Land Disturbance Permit is issued by City.

In addition to the City of Forest Hills new Land Disturbance Permit requirements, certain land disturbance activities that impact "Waters of the State", "Wetlands", and/or "Sinkholes" may be required to meet additional State and Federal regulations. All such applicable regulations must be met prior to initiation of land disturbing activities. This includes obtaining any necessary permits.



Further information on additional regulations that may pertain to your activities may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Nashville Environmental Assistance Center at 615-687-7000, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District-Regulatory Branch at 1-615-736-5181.

For more information on requirements of the NPDES permit, or to obtain a copy of the recently implemented City of Forest Hills Storm Water Management Ordinance, call City of Forest Hills at 615-383-8447.