

## Ways that Topekans Can Help Keep Our Neighborhood Creeks and Lakes Clean:

1. **Don't Litter** –Put litter in a trash can and recycle when possible. Litter and debris can cause storm drain blockages that lead to flooding, impaired water quality and can be a hazard to wildlife.
2. **Clean up Pet Waste** – Would you want to swim in dirty water with this stuff in it? To reduce harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses in our streams and rivers, pick up pet waste and flush it down the toilet, or bag it and put it in the garbage.
3. **Properly Manage Yard Waste** – Grass clippings, leaves, garden debris, and other yard waste should be reused as mulch or put in a compost pile. Throughout the year, these materials can also be taken to the City's Yard Materials Recycling Facility, located just northeast of I-70 & MacVicar.
4. **Use Fertilizers and Other Lawn Chemicals Wisely** – Apply fertilizers and other lawn chemicals in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or use a natural alternative. Don't use garden or lawn chemicals when rain is expected and never pour garden chemicals down a storm drain, manhole, toilet or household drain. Take leftover chemicals to the Shawnee County Hazardous Household Waste Facility for disposal. See <http://www.snco.us/recycling/hhwaste.asp> for more information.
5. **Minimize Salt Use** – During winter months, use salt and other de-icing materials sparingly on sidewalks and driveways
6. **Don't Wash Your Car on the Driveway** – Wash your car in a location where the water will soak into grass or take it to a commercial facility for washing. Washing your car at home not only uses more gallons of water than a commercial car wash, but it also drains soap, oil, dirt and engine grease into local creeks and streams.
7. **Recycle Waste Motor Oil & Used Antifreeze** – Deliver waste motor oil and used antifreeze to the Shawnee County Hazardous Household Waste Facility.
8. **Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste** – Pesticides, paints, solvents, and other chemicals should be taken to the Shawnee County Hazardous Household Waste Facility for disposal. See <http://www.snco.us/recycling/hhwaste.asp> for more information.
9. **Watch For "Dirty" Construction Sites** – Make sure construction sites in your neighborhood are keeping their dirt out of the storm drains. If you see a lot of mud or dirty water flowing from a construction site into a storm drain, please contact the Water Pollution Control Division.
10. **Install a Rain Garden or Rain Barrel** – See our Green Topeka website for more information, or call the Shawnee County Extension Agency or see your local nursery or garden store.