

## What is a Watershed?

No matter where you are on this earth, be it in Grand Prairie or Beijing, you are in a watershed. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water under or on top of the land goes to the same place – this includes water located underground and water that flows on the surface. Generally, a ridge or elevated point separates one watershed from another.

Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work, and where we play. When it rains, water flows from rooftops, through lawns, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and eventually flows untreated into storm drains to our streams, rivers and lakes. Not only do wildlife live in our streams, rivers, and lakes, but the City of Grand Prairie gets their drinking water from these waterbodies!

Industrial facilities have the opportunity to significantly improve the City's quality of water and other natural resources through the correct implementation of best management practices (BMPs). Properly applied BMPs can help maintain a healthy watershed or restore an unhealthy one.



Visit us on the Web at:  
[www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality)

## Grand Prairie's MS4 Permit

Did you know that the City of Grand Prairie has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit? This is part of the TCEQ's Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program. City's with an MS4 permit are required to meet specific goals set forth in their Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). To see the City of Grand Prairie's SWMP, visit [www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/SWMP](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/SWMP).



## AN INDUSTRY'S GUIDE FOR PROTECTING GRAND PRAIRIE'S WATERSHED



**Environmental Services Department**  
**Environmental Quality Division**  
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[www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality)

# What you can do...

## **Maintain good housekeeping measures**

- Collect trash from parking lots, lawns, fences, and other areas around your facility daily (if it blows onto your property, it is your responsibility)
- Only wash vehicles in an approved wash bay
- Immediately clean up spills with absorbent
- All dumpsters and trash receptacles need to be free of leaks and closed, except when in use
- Ensure dumpsters, storage areas, and loading and unloading docks are clean and clear of pollutants and debris
- Provide litter receptacles in high-traffic areas
- Store possible pollutants out of the weather
- Never blow grass clippings or leaves into the storm drain
- Use a broom and dustpan instead of hosing down paved areas
- Dispose of shop towels properly. Never allow towels to enter the sanitary sewer or storm drain.



## **Know your spill prevention procedures**

- Store liquid storage tanks and containers within secondary containment structures
- Maintain overflow prevention devices on tanks and pumps
- Keep containers closed unless in use
- Ensure spill clean up materials are easily accessible
- Label all chemicals and waste

**If you have a TPDES permit and/or are required to maintain a SWPPP, know your responsibilities!!! Only YOU can ensure your compliance!**

## **Know when and how to report spills**

- Report all spills to the City of Grand Prairie Environmental Quality Division by calling 972.237.8055
- To determine if a spill is a “reportable quantity” for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, go to [www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/er/spill\\_rq.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/er/spill_rq.html). Report spills to the TCEQ by calling 800.832.8224

## **Know your spill response measures**

- Protect your storm drains
- Never hose down the spill
- Use dry clean-up methods
- Dispose of clean-up waste properly

## **Train all employees at least once per year and keep records of training events**

Your employees should know:

- Good housekeeping procedures
- Spill prevention and response methods
- When and how to report spills
- Materials management

## **Volunteer!!!**

The City of Grand Prairie has many great volunteer opportunities, such as:

- Texas Stream Team
- Storm Drain Marking
- Adopt a Street/Stream/Wetland
- Clean Company Program

Call 972.237.8055 for more information.

