



SHAWNEE  
K A N S A S

# Neighborhood Watershed

## What's the Big Deal with Water Quality?

**W**ater quality is an issue that has a direct effect on our citizens every day. Because of that, it is important for our residents to be educated on the basics of stormwater and how they can contribute to keeping our water safe. In this edition of the Neighborhood Watershed Newsletter, we will discuss some of the lesser known facts about water quality in Shawnee.

**What is stormwater?** Stormwater is what flows into our ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, and other bodies of water. While our drinking water is specially treated to ensure safety, stormwater is not. Individuals, businesses, and organizations often contaminate stormwater without realizing it by dumping household hazardous waste, grass clippings, automotive fluids, fertilizers, and other pollutants into storm sewers.

**Where does stormwater go?** Once on the ground, stormwater then flows into one of Shawnee's 10,057 nearby inlets and through any of Shawnee's 282 miles open channels or 175 miles of pipes. The storm sewer system then carries this untreated water to nearby bodies of water like Walden Pond. From there, it drains into the Little Mill Creek, Mill Creek, and eventually, the Kansas River. That is why it is important that we work together as a community to keep pollutants and contaminants out of our stormwater system.



**Who overlooks stormwater management?** At the City, our Stormwater Division of Public Works is active at ensuring that the water quality is safe for our citizens. Michael Gregory, P.E. is the Stormwater Manager who oversees projects related to water quality. Jonathan Wiles, CET is the Stormwater Program Specialist and helps with education, outreach, and pollution control measures in the City. The City also maintains a permit issued from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit. Good management of this permit helps Shawnee keep our water clean.

If you would like more information regarding stormwater pollution or want to report polluting, you can reach the Stormwater Division at (913) 742-6008.

### Stormwater Treatment Facility (STF) Cost-Share Program

The City will provide a 50% match on STFs, up to \$1,000 for rain gardens, native planting swales/buffers, or other STFs approved by the City, and a 50% match on rain barrels, up to \$75. Individual homeowners and businesses are eligible to benefit from this program. Deadline for all projects are to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/costshareprogram> to learn more.





Stormwater Management  
11110 Johnson Drive  
Shawnee, KS 66203

# NeighborWood

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon**

**West Flanders Park, 55<sup>th</sup> & Nieman**

**A** tree a day keeps the doctor away! Well, without the tree we wouldn't have any apples! Get your free tree fix this fall with NeighborWood (tree giveaway is limited to the first 100 Shawnee families, proof of residency required). West Flanders Park, 55<sup>th</sup> & Nieman will be hoppin' with the latest and greatest on tree care, composting, backyard habitats, and water conservation. Bring your Webelos Scout at 10:30 a.m. to complete the requirements for the Forrester Badge (pre-registration is required, call 631-5200 to sign up). At 11:30 a.m. the Parks & Recreation Department will celebrate Arbor Day in the City of Shawnee with the annual proclamation and tree planting to commemorate the event. Don't miss out on refreshments and door prizes to celebrate this big day!



Contact the Stormwater Division to report an illicit discharge or stormwater related issue at 742-6008 or [stormwater@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:stormwater@cityofshawnee.org)