



# Think W H A T You do M A T T E R S?

*Choices you make about how you use the land, from development to preservation of farmland, trees and grasslands, are critical to the successful management of stormwater and for keeping Sedgwick County's waters healthy.*

## What Can You Do to be Part of the Solution?

As stormwater runoff accumulates, so do the problems it creates. Therefore, it only makes sense to try and stop the problems before they start or before they get too big to manage. Everyone can play an important role in helping to reduce stormwater runoff and the problems and costs that go with it. The solutions start with paying attention to stormwater at home, at work, and in your communities. Here are a few of the things you can do to make a difference.

- Disconnect your downspouts from impervious surfaces and direct the flow into vegetated areas like your lawn or flower beds.
- Install a rain barrel to collect the rainwater from your downspouts and re-use the rainwater for flowers, lawns, and gardens.
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use on lawns. Use on an as needed basis and select environmentally friendly products.

- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly. This includes cleaning solutions, motor oil, paints, solvents, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- Fix your leaky vehicle. Oil and grease left on the road by vehicles is a major stormwater pollutant. Fixing leaks will also prolong the life of your vehicle.
- Pick up trash and pet waste. Properly disposing trash will keep it out of storm sewers and creeks. Disposing of pet waste when walking your pet keeps bacteria and excess nutrients from becoming a public health risk.
- Maintain your septic system. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems can release nutrients, pathogens, and bacteria into nearby creeks, rivers, and lakes creating health risks.



## What is the Region Doing to Address Your Stormwater?

*A highly effective and functional stormwater management program will protect life and property and enhance quality of life, while creating community assets that provide recreational opportunities and promote economic development. There are some of the efforts underway in Sedgwick County.*

## Stormwater Management

### Advisory Board

In 2007, the Sedgwick County Commission chartered the Stormwater Management Advisory Board (SMAB) with the mission to protect lives and property within Sedgwick County by promoting better stormwater management and providing financial, technical, and other assistance to all entities within Sedgwick County who are concerned with stormwater management. Effective management requires county-wide cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries, which is a major reason the SMAB was created.

The SMAB is working to create a highly effective and functional Stormwater Management Program with the goals of protecting life and property, enhancing quality of life, and creating community assets that provide recreational opportunities and promote economic development. The Program's focus is on stormwater management, not just flood control.

Public education and awareness is also a key element of the Stormwater Management Program. Education and outreach helps citizens, businesses, and organizations become aware of their role in stormwater issues and builds public support for local actions and changes in behavior that lead to long-term protection of water resources.

### RiverCity WRAPS

The RiverCity Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) is a process where Wichita residents, businesses and other organizations have the opportunity to identify watershed needs, and with guidance and technical assistance, develop and take action on a plan to address those needs. The WRAPS mission is to develop and implement water quality improvement projects in the community that restore and protect the overall health of the river's watershed ecosystem.

### Visioneering Wichita

In December 2004, Visioneering Wichita finalized a plan for the future of Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey and Sumner counties. The Visioneering Environmental Sustainability Alliance was formed in 2010, and has adopted a vision of "A viable natural environment", a strong mission to promote the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Wichita region, and a defined "preferred future" that maximizes water conservation and assures optimum water quality.

