

Out of sight - out of mind? Not anymore!

Storm Drains, they're everywhere! On roadsides, parking lots, around buildings and they are often found around your home. In fact, any drain, ditch or pipe you see outside that will collect rainwater is a part of the storm sewer system. Storm drains are an essential part of our urban infrastructure, they exist to quickly remove rainwater from areas that would otherwise be subject to flooding and allow us to go about our business safely under the most adverse of weather conditions. These drains take unwanted rainwater and move it safely to our rivers and streams. However, as is often the case, there is a dark side! While these drains are absolutely necessary they can *and are* often misused for waste disposal. These drains are connected to our waterways, so any materials that enter these drains will also eventually discharge into our streams and rivers.

In the City of Grayson, the Gwinnett County Stormwater Management Division regularly responds to complaints of citizens or businesses dumping or discharging waste products into our streams via our storm drainage system. Common pollutants include litter, oil, detergents, grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, cigarette butts, paint, concrete, sewage and animal waste. Each of these pollutants has an adverse effect on our waterways. So, the next time you see a storm drain, spare a moment and remember that our creeks, streams and rivers begin right there.

You can report illegal discharges to our waterways, storm sewers and drainage ditches by calling the Gwinnett County Storm Water Management Division at 678-376-7000. Alternatively, you can file a report online at www.gwinnettstormwater.com by clicking on "Citizen Service Request" under Storm Water Management on the left hand side of the page.