

Dear Resident of The Village

Blue Thumb volunteers have marked storm sewer inlets in your neighborhood with the pollution prevention message:



This message is to remind us to protect the **Cimmaron River** and our area ponds and creeks, which provide homes for wildlife and drinking water for downstream communities

Storm Sewer System

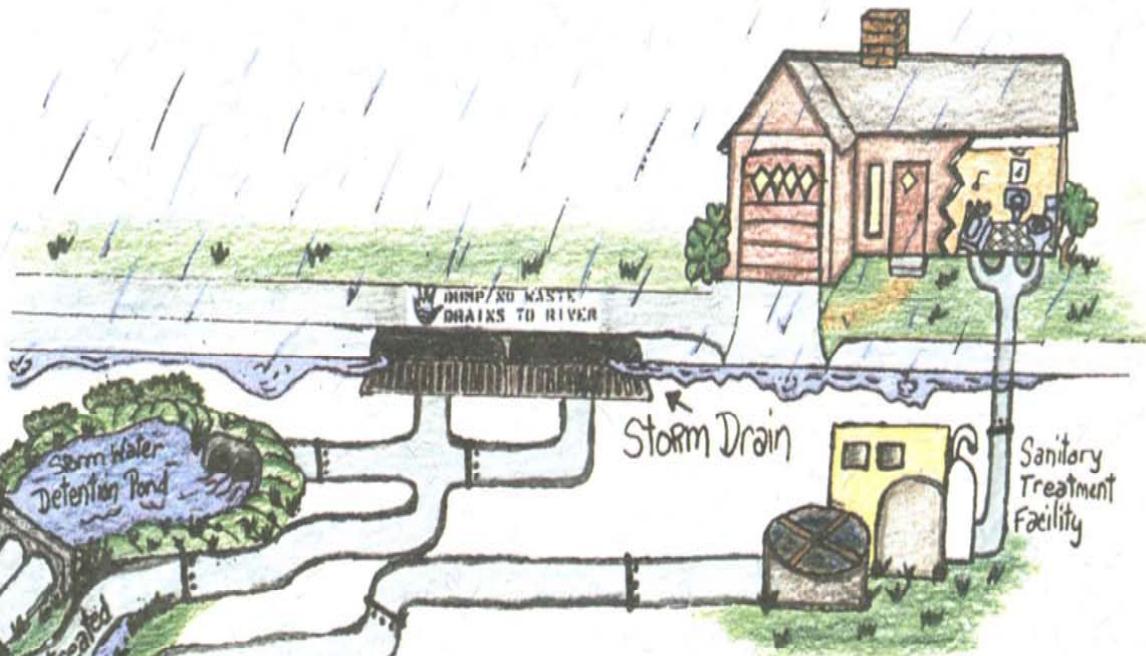
When rain or snow falls, or water is released, this water washes over our streets, driveways, yards and then is collected through storm drain inlets, ditches, creeks and detention ponds. This water, called runoff, then travels across the land or in underground pipes. Runoff will then pass **untreated** into our neighborhood creeks and the **Cimmaron River**. All of these water collection devices are part of the **storm sewer system**.

Sanitary Sewer System

Water from your sink, bathtub, and toilet travels through a network of underground pipes and then arrives at a sanitary water treatment facility. There water is treated to remove pollutants and then released to eventually flow in the **Cimmaron River**.

What Ends Up in the Cimmaron River?

If you live in the city limits of The Village, your home has two sewer systems: storm sewer and sanitary sewer. Water moves through both of these systems to the **Cimmaron River**. One of these systems can carry nonpoint source pollution to the **Cimmaron River**. Read below to find out more.



What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, antifreeze, sediment, and litter are examples of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution comes from many different sources, not just one. If pesticides and fertilizers are overused or used incorrectly, water will wash these chemicals down into the storm drains and your neighborhood creek. Automobiles leaking oil and antifreeze will leave a residue on streets and parking lots. When it rains next (you guessed it!) the pollutants will eventually enter the **Cimmaron River**.

Examples of Nonpoint Source Pollution:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| fertilizer | pesticide |
| motor oil | gasoline |
| antifreeze | paint |
| sediment | paint thinner |
| pet waste | soap |
| litter | grass clippings |



Help Keep Our Waters Clean!

- Recycle oil, antifreeze, batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, paint, and other household pollutants. Call COMEA at 739-1352.
- Obtain a soil test to find out how much fertilizer your lawn needs before you apply it. Call OSU Extension at 713-1125 for details.
- Follow instructions carefully before applying pesticides and disposing the containers.
- If you see or know of someone who is illegally dumping, note any details and report them to Code Enforcement at 751-0493.
- If you notice sediment (dirt) running into the street, please contact the City of The Village Public Works Department at 751-4933.
- Maintain your car to prevent oil and other automotive fluids from leaking.
- Try alternative products and techniques for lawn care and household cleaning that are less toxic. Call OSU Extension at 713-1125.
- Help reduce litter through education and cleanup. Call Blue Thumb for more details on cleanups at 751-8861 x259. Call ODOT to report littering at 1-888-5LITTER.

The City of The Village's Public Works Department gives full support to Blue Thumb's Storm Drain Marking Program

Dump No Waste Drains to River?

Volunteers who left this letter for you have affixed markers on your neighborhood storm drain inlets. They are part of a state-wide network of people helping to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality awareness in The Village and other areas around the state.

We ask you to view your storm drain, your lawns and driveways as the banks of the **Cimmaron River**.

For More Information

To learn more about Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Project and nonpoint source pollution, contact us at

Oklahoma Conservation District
1120 NW 63rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Phone: 405-848-1933

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
520 E. Colorado
Oklahoma City, OK 73018
Phone: 405-224-1214

Blue Thumb Sponsors



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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**DUMP NO WASTE
DRAINS TO RIVER**



Blue Thumb is a
Water Quality Education Project

Give The Village's Water a Hand!