**What We Do**

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground. This water flows to lower areas, making its way into streams, lakes and other waterways. On its way, runoff can pick up and carry chemicals and sediments that pollute water. This affects both wildlife and water used for out drinking supply.

The City of Lexington has in place a comprehensive program to reduce stormwater pollution to Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) levels. The program is also designed to eliminate prohibited non-stormwater discharges through a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater discharge permit. Areas addressed by this program include construction sites, industrial sites, illegal discharges and illicit connections, new development, and municipal operations. The program also includes a public education effort through a number of PSA’s, handouts and demonstration projects at the school level and outdoor expos.

The City of Lexington also participates in a larger, regional effort with Nebraska H2O. The members of Nebraska H2O also include the Cities of Hasting, Grand Island, Kearney, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Norfolk, Columbus, Fremont, Beatrice, South Sioux City and the Nebraska Department of Roads.

**Municipal Good Housekeeping**

It is estimated that over half the pollutants in our creeks, lakes, and rivers are transported by stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (parking lots, roads, etc.) through storm drain systems and into our waterways. These pollutants include gasoline by-products, oil, grease and heavy metals deposited by automobiles as well as industrial and chemical wastes. Fertilizers running off lawns and into storm drain systems are also a primary concern. These pollutants threaten the quality and usability of our water resources.

Good housekeeping practices and procedures help keep Lexington’s water quality clean and safe. The City of Lexington conducts numerous operational and maintenance activities that significantly reduces the pollutants flowing via stormwater into our local lakes, creeks, and rivers.

Some of these activities include street sweeping, sediment removal from pumping stations, pipes and catch basins, debris removal from ditches and creeks, household hazardous waste collection days, and solid waste collection services provided by Dan’s Sanitation. It is our goal to reduce pollutants carried in runoff resulting from municipal activities, land use areas, and other city-owned facilities. City staff is provided guidance and training to identify, prevent, and reduce any mode of pollutant discharge.