



SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

GUIDE TO GREEN LIVING



The cities network of creeks and stormdrains flow into the Chattahoochee River

Sustainability is no longer a noun or a movement, it is a verb and one that we should all embrace. No longer a trend, for many residents and business owners, it is becoming a way of life.

The City is proud of its natural beauty, the lush tree canopy, access to the Chattahoochee and multiple parks and green spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Take pride in your home and neighborhood by incorporating some of these practices into your daily, weekly, monthly and even annual routines.

PREVENTING WATER POLLUTION FROM HAZARDOUS WASTES

Hazardous wastes in and around your home can affect you family and pets and can be toxic to fish and wildlife.

Hazardous products include items like:

- Paints, stains and sealers; used motor oil and antifreeze; paint strippers and paint thinners; cleaning agents and solvents; drain and oven cleaner; fertilizers and pesticides; gasoline, kerosene



and propane; batteries; mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent lamps; pool chemicals.

There are two primary ways to reduce household hazardous waste from polluting our water:

- Think Prevention first!
- Recycle and dispense of waste properly

Automobile

Never dump vehicle fluids on pavement, the ground or down the storm drain. Collect and recycle motor oil, oil filters and other automobile fluids at vehicle service center or parts stores listed at 1-800-CLEANUP and Earth911.com. Wash your vehicle at a professional car wash facility. This way the wastewater will be treated instead of possibly becoming a pollutant in a nearby stream. If you decide to wash your car at home, use a low or non-phosphate soap. Wash your vehicle in a grassy area instead of on pavement. Regularly tune your car and fix leaks.

Batteries & Mercury Containing Products

Use rechargeable batteries instead of alkaline disposables. Recycle rechargeable batteries at the sites listed at 1-800-BATTERY. Buy digital thermometers instead of mercury thermometers. Replace a mercury thermostat with a programmable, digital thermostat.



Lawn Care

Use electric-powered lawn equipment instead of gas-powered whenever possible. Since it's easy to create leftovers by overestimating the gasoline necessary for mowing season, plan to make a second purchase of a lesser amount to finish the season. Help fertilize your lawn by mowing 1/3 of the total grass height only and leaving the clippings on the lawn (mulching mowers and mowers with sharp blades work best). Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly and only when all else fails. Plant native plants since they can survive

without extra fertilizers, pesticides and water. Pull weeds by hand or with a weeding tool. If pesticides are necessary, spot treat weeds instead of applying to the whole area.

Pesticides/fungicides/herbicides: Use as directed and dispose of leftovers properly by donating it to a local gardening club or taking it to a collection site. As a last resort, stir into concrete mix until solid and dispose of in the trash.

Paint

Georgia households waste approximately four million gallons of paint each year. Use latex paint instead of oil-based paint. This also eliminates the need for paint thinner. When painting a large area, buy a little less than you think you will need. Once the job is well underway, you will have a better idea of how much more is required. This way you can plan to have enough for touch ups, but avoid gallons of leftover paint. Instead of buying methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) or xylene for stripping paint, do as much as possible with sandpaper, and buy citrus oil stripper if needed.

Disposing of paint, stain, varnish and sealer: If you have leftover supplies, find someone who will use them or take them to a hazardous waste collection site. As a last resort, make the leftovers into a solid by mixing them with equal parts cat box litter and dispose of it in the trash.

When preparing your house for painting, collect paint chips and dispose of them in the trash. If left on the ground, they may wash into a storm drain and be carried to a nearby stream.

WHY IT MATTERS

Georgia households generate 62 million pounds of hazardous waste per year—enough to fill 1,550 tractor-trailers.

That averages to 20 pounds per household. It is critical to dispose of this waste in a manner that reduces its impact on our environment.



City staff routinely inspect stormwater outfalls

IN THE KITCHEN

Fats, oils and grease cost Sandy Springs taxpayers thousands of dollars every year because of the damage caused to sanitary sewer lines. The impacted lines cause sanitary sewer manhole overflows and sewage back-ups in both residential and commercial areas. Sewer back-ups damage City infrastructure, create health hazards and threaten the natural environment.

Sanitary sewer overflows not only cost residents financially, they also have a negative impact on the environment through the contamination of natural waterways. Overflowed sewage flows into storm drains and on into ponds, streams and rivers. This can destroy aquatic life and cause health risk concerns for residents using these waterways for recreational activities. Backed-up sewage and accumulated food residue are perfect breeding grounds for bacteria, insects and other vermin.

Fats, oils, and grease are by-products of many foods and are used in the cooking of food.

Cooking grease enters your plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and dishwashers, coats the inside of your plumbing drainpipes and then empties into the sewer system.

Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oil and can be found in such foods as:

- Meats
- Sauces
- Marinades
- Salad dressings
- Mayonnaise
- Gravy
- Cooking Oils
- Cookies & Pastries
- Cheese
- Butter & Margarine
- Shortening
- Ice cream



Springmont Montessori School student monitoring water quality in Big Trees Park

Think of cooking grease as “hardening of the arteries.”

When cholesterol builds up in the human bloodstream, it can cause a heart attack. When cooking grease hardens in the sewer, it can cause system overflow. Cooking grease entering the sewer system increase the cost of maintaining and operating water and sewer services. The increased cost is ultimately passed on to you, the consumer.

Stop and Think, Not Down the Sink!

Follow These Easy Steps For Disposal:

- Allow cooking grease to cool and place in a sealed container. Place container in garbage.
- Wipe and scrape excess fats, oil and grease from plates, pots, pans, utensils and cooking surfaces before washing.
- Put greasy paper towels in the garbage.
- Don't flush grease down drains with hot water.
- Don't unnecessarily dispose of foods in garbage disposals

IF YOU LIVE NEAR A RIVER, A CREEK OR STREAM

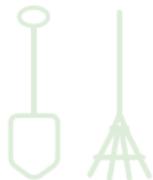
As the City's name suggests, there are streams, creeks (and springs) that run throughout the city. For residents and business owners with property nearby there are considerations to keep in mind before starting a project that might create a disturbance.

Many of the City's waterways are tributaries to the

Chattahoochee River and are a part of the natural infrastructure of our State's water supply and storm water management system. The State and City have designated areas comprised of various buffers in the vicinity of these waterways to minimize land disturbance and erosion. Stream buffers, also known as Riparian buffers, are areas of vegetation adjacent to streams, rivers, wetlands, etc. that protect these water resources from pollution and provide bank stabilization and support aquatic and wildlife habitat. The City has on staff an individual who determines whether a creek or stream is a state water and if the buffer is required.

Once state water has been established, a minimum buffer width of 75 feet is required by the City of Sandy Springs. The buffer zone should be thought of in layers moving from the stream to the house a 25-foot state regulated buffer is observed, followed by an additional 25-foot buffer sanctioned by the City of Sandy Springs, along with another 25-foot impervious buffer. In essence, there can be no disturbance within 50 feet of a state water, and there can be no concrete or construction within 75 feet of a state water. Landscaping is permitted in the area 50-75 feet from a state water.

Any land use changes encroaching on these buffers such as decks, patios and/or walkways, requires a variance from the City's Planning and Zoning department that is part of Community Development. Before conducting any ground disturbing activities near a waterway, please contact the City's call center to ensure that the activities will be in compliance with state and local requirements.



For additional information regarding reporting sewage overflow spills:

Fulton County Sewer

404-612-3061



For more information regarding fats, oils and grease

georgiafog.org



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