



Chatham County Catch Basin

See what's flowing in the new *Chatham County Catch Basin!*

Thanks for opening up Chatham County's new Stormwater Newsletter!

The *Chatham County Catch Basin* is the new voice of the Chatham County Department of Engineering's stormwater program. This newsletter will provide information on stormwater and promote ways in which Chatham County residents and visitors can help keep stormwater clean. But first, let's make sure you know more on stormwater and stormwater structures in our area.

What is stormwater?

When rains fall in Chatham County, rain water often pools and puddles before flowing over the ground. This rain is called stormwater. Stormwater needs a way to drain off of the roads and lawns. So, Chatham County, like other municipalities, constructs stormwater structures to assist in diverting the runoff to nearby waterways and marshes.

What are stormwater structures?

Stormwater structures include a variety of hard structures (like storm drains and canals) and a variety of soft structures (like ponds and swales). These stormwater structures are intentionally designed by engineers to hold or divert stormwater off of roads and developed areas.

Stormwater structures are not intended to clean or filter debris from stormwater as it flows through. Storm drains only provide a conduit for which the stormwater can pass. Chatham County is a separate stormwater system known as a Municipal Separate Stormwater Structure, or MS4 for short.

Everything flowing into the stormwater system (storm drain, canal, etc.) has the potential to be carried DIRECTLY into our coastal marshes and Atlantic Ocean.

How can You help?

Basically, keep stormwater clean! Prevent debris, trash, chemicals, and bacteria from entering our coastal habitats.

Here are a few ways that you can help:

- * Secure trash in your car, trucks, and trailers.
- * Pick up pet wastes, even in your backyard!
- * Keep storm drains free of leaves and yard debris.
- * Avoid dumping pesticides, fertilizers, and detergents down the drain. Report any such activity immediately.

**ONLY RAIN
DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!**

Stormwater: Keep it Clean Chatham County!

We have a NEW stormwater webpage!

Check it out and learn more about Chatham County's federally mandated stormwater program, become involved in upcoming volunteer opportunities, and access science-based resources for educators and residents.

<http://engineering.chathamcounty.org/Stormwater/About>

For stormwater program information, contact:

Angela Bliss, PhD at acbliss@chathamcounty.org or 912-652-7800

Water Restrictions: Still in place for all of Chatham County

The Board of Natural Resources adopted Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30 in May 2004. Under the rules, Georgians are required to follow schedules for outdoor water use during both non-drought periods and during periods of declared drought.

The rules are consistent with Section 4 (Drought Responses) of the Georgia Drought Management Plan, which the Board adopted in 2003. The rules ap-

ply to any entity, and its customers, permitted by EPD for water withdrawal or for the operation of a public drinking water supply system.



Watering guidelines for Unincorporated Chatham County are as follows:

- Odd-numbered addresses may use outdoor water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays
- Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses may use outdoor water only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays
- No watering between 10:00am to 4:00pm on your assigned days.
- No watering on Fridays.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Even or unnumbered address	Odd- numbered addresses	Even or unnumbered address	Odd- numbered addresses	NO WATERING	Even or unnumbered address	Odd- numbered addresses
<i>Example:</i> 22 Diagon Alley or Quidditch Place	<i>Example:</i> 11 Malfoy Lane	<i>Example:</i> 22 Diagon Alley or Quidditch Place	<i>Example:</i> 11 Malfoy Lane	NO WATERING	<i>Example:</i> 22 Diagon Alley or Quidditch Place	<i>Example:</i> 11 Malfoy Lane

Be Stormwater Smart: Know Before You Blow!

Many residents work to have beautiful lawns and shrubs. Yard work and pruning shrubs creates leaf and limb debris that must be bagged and removed.

However, some residents and companies do not bag and remove lawn debris. They simply rake and blow lawn debris into the storm drains.

Chatham County has many problems that stem from lawn debris purposefully placed in local storm drains.

Blowing or raking yard debris and lawn clippings into a storm drain is illegal. This type of debris can clog the storm drain and prevent rain water, known as stormwater, from draining off of the streets and roads.

When a storm drain becomes clogged, problems occur when the next rain event falls.

For instance, clogged storm drains prevent water from flowing off of the roads. This

standing water can cause the roads to flood. Flooded roads can be a nuisance with delayed or stopped traffic, but flooded roads can also be dangerous.

So, know before you blow! Keep stormwater clean and keep the storm drains free of debris!

If you see anyone blowing debris into a storm drain or if you see a clogged storm drain, call (912) 652-6840 or use the Chatham County Connect App to report activity or flooding.



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