



18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Point of Contact: Daniel Lillis, Stormwater Program Manager, 308-233-3273

Stormwater Management Program Revisions

Stormwater pollution occurs when rain, snowmelt or other water sources pick up pollutants like sediment, oil, pet waste, litter, pesticides, and herbicides and carries them to the nearest stream, river or lake. Many people do not know that stormwater does **not** receive any treatment before it enters the nearest body of water. Picking up after pets, not over-fertilizing lawns, regular septic maintenance, not washing cars on driveways and turning downspouts away from paved areas are just a few examples of how we can reduce stormwater pollutions impacts. Because stormwater pollution comes from a wide variety of sources, it takes efforts on the part of residents, businesses and government to address the problem.

Many efforts to reduce stormwater pollution take place in Kearney to comply with federal mandates connected to the Clean Water Act. In 2006 the City of Kearney created a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) to comply with the municipal storm water permit issued by Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). The program documents the commitment to develop and implement stormwater management policies, procedures and practices. Examples of Best Management Practices adopted by Kearney include construction site management ordinances, removing illicit connections, sweeping city streets, educating students and residents about stormwater pollution and many other activities.

The City of Kearney submits compliance reports annually to the city management and to NDEQ. In 2016 the SWMP will be modified to improve stormwater protection and address new permit requirements. The revised SWMP will be presented to the City Council on the regular agenda and public feedback is encouraged. Public service announcements, workshops, public presentations and a website (www.cityofkearney.org) have been prepared and used to inform about this effort. To learn more about stormwater pollution and efforts the City of Kearney and surrounding organizations are making, please call (308) 233-3273, or send an email to stormwater@kearneygov.org.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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