

Owensboro/Daviess County Storm Water Quality Advisory Committee

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the primary cause of water quality problems in the U.S. today is not from factories or waste water treatment plants, but rather something called “nonpoint source pollution.” Nonpoint source pollution is runoff from rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation that picks up debris, chemicals, sediment from construction sites, and other pollutants as it runs over land or underground, eventually depositing them into our lakes, rivers, and streams. Healthy lakes, rivers, and streams directly impact property values and the quality of life we enjoy. Each of us has a responsibility to be a part of Owensboro’s and Daviess County’s solution to pollution by controlling what we purposefully or inadvertently put down our storm drains.

Two of the primary components of Owensboro’s Stormwater Management Program are to educate the public about the impacts polluted storm water runoff can have on water quality and to promote public participation by providing opportunities for citizens to participate in the program through public meetings and activities such as storm drain marking projects and stream cleanup events. In order to get the public more involved in Owensboro’s Storm Water Management Program, the City of Owensboro and Daviess County created the Storm Water Quality Advisory Committee (SWQAC). This committee was created in July, 2004 and has consisted of volunteers from the community, teachers from all levels of education, developers, contractors, Home builders Association, Neighborhood Alliance, NAACP, etc. Since its creation, the SWQAC has met on a quarterly basis and has completed projects such as developing and funding a Storm Water Quality Exhibit at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History, a rain barrel project, storm drain marking projects, creating handouts and flyers for public education, and developing an environmental logo for the city. The SWQAC is always looking for new members to help in the fight to clean up our local waterways and to improve our community. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Matt White from the City of Owensboro at (270) 687-8641, or Pete Conrad from the GRADD office at (270) 926-4433.

