



Nowhere is the protection of water resources as vital as it is in Biloxi, a city that was originally built on a peninsula bounded by the Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of Biloxi, and whose 50-square miles includes two rivers and countless acres of wetlands, streams and bayous.

Pollutants enter our waters from many different sources. One way is from specific points, such as discharge pipes of factories and wastewater treatment plants, which can contain untreated waste. This type of pollution is already monitored and controlled through state and federal regulations. Non-point source pollution comes from many different sources and is harder to find and control. Major non-point sources of pollution include nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers; uncontrolled stormwater runoff containing sediments from construction sites; pesticides from agricultural lands; animal wastes; failing septic systems; and household chemicals released directly into the environment by citizens. Individually, these pollutants may not be a major concern, but taken as a whole they can result in widespread water quality problems.

Most citizens do not realize that storm drains and ditches drain directly into our local water bodies such as our streams, rivers, Biloxi Back Bay, and the Mississippi Sound, without any type of treatment to remove pollutants. So whatever pollutants you dispose of into the drainage ways ends up being deposited into our local waterways. And non-point source pollution closes beaches, kills wildlife, poisons drinking water resources and contaminates fish and shellfish. So...



Mayor A.J. Holloway
and the
Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence
William "Bill" Stallworth
Lucy Denton
Clark Griffith
Tom Wall
Edward "Ed" Gemmill
David Fayard





What can you do to protect our local waterways?

Vehicle & Garage



- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material at a hazardous waste disposal site.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations or a hazardous waste disposal site, don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or in the trash.



Lawn & Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary; use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for heavy rain: otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Never hose down, blow or sweep grass or lawn clippings into the streets or storm drains. They should be swept, bagged and disposed of properly. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible. Do not dispose of it in the storm drain or local water ways. During the decay process these organic materials use up all the oxygen in the water, leaving the fish, shellfish, and plants without oxygen for survival.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run off into the storm drain. Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into drainage ways. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Pet Care

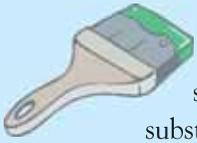
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.



Harrison County Beautification Commission sponsors a household hazardous waste disposal site. It is located at the Harrison County District 4 Work Center on Lorraine Rd. in Gulfport. It is open from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon every 2nd Saturday of the month, except the month of October. Citizens may dispose of latex or oil based paint, used oil, antifreeze, household/marine/car batteries, freezers and refrigerators, fluorescent light bulbs, aerosol cans, and tires (maximum of 5). For more information contact the Harrison County Beautification Commission at (228) 214-1405 or www.co.harrison.ms.us

Household Hazardous Waste

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
 - Do not “wash out” concrete and mortar into storm drains or ditches.
 - Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills, clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste properly. Dispose of all household chemicals at a household hazardous waste disposal site.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Properly dispose of excess paint through a household hazardous waste collection program, do not pour paint down the storm drain or into the sink.
- Reduce the amount of paved areas and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce runoff.
- Never pour fats, oils and grease down the sink or garbage disposal. After they have cooled, pour them into a container, such as an empty glass jar or coffee can. Once the container is full, secure the lid and place in the trash. Before washing dishes containing oil or grease, scrape and dry wipe with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.



Septic System Use and Maintenance

If you own a septic tank:

- Have your septic tank inspected by a professional at least every 3 years and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).
- Care for the septic system drain field by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drain field to avoid damage by roots.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter can clog the septic system and potentially damage components.

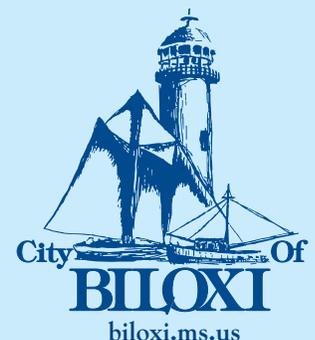


If you're connected to the city sanitary sewer system:

- Check your sewer “clean out” periodically to ensure that the line is not clogged and sewage is not leaking out of the “clean out” into your lawn.
- Ensure that the sewer “clean out” cap is on properly to prohibit rain water from getting into the sewer system and causing overflows.
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs above or near the service lateral that runs from your house or building to the sewer main. Roots can enter and clog sewers, causing them to back up and overflow.
- Flush responsibly. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove the pollutants caused from household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil, and antifreeze. Therefore never flush or pour down the sink any household chemicals or other items such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter that can clog the sewer system.

Education and public involvement are the keys to effective solutions. We all bear the responsibility for controlling and preventing non-point source pollution. From the individual gardener to the public official, everyone has a stake in protecting our resources. For information on the problems and solutions in your area contact:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water. Research for Non-point Source Pollution Information
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/
- Harrison County Beautification Commission for household hazardous waste disposal at 228-214-1405 or www.mscoastbeautiful.org
- City of Biloxi Stormwater Management General Information at 228-435-6269 or <http://biloxi.ms.us/publicworks/stormwater.asp>
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Managing Polluted Runoff in Mississippi
www.deq.state.ms.us





What you can do to help prevent flooding

The severe thunderstorms that pass through Biloxi occasionally illustrate the vital need for effective neighborhood drainage systems.

Government cannot do it all. It must be a citywide, team effort.

As a property owner in Biloxi, you have an important role to play in both helping maintain neighborhood drainage systems and making sure that you take steps to minimize pollution.

The primary purpose of this federally-mandated newsletter is to inform property owners on things you can do to help achieve those goals.

You'll find helpful information inside. Please heed the advice.

No drainage system has the capacity to quickly handle severe thunderstorms such as the one last week, but your efforts and those of the city will certainly help minimize the chance of flooding on your property and in your neighborhood.



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The City of Biloxi's Information Source

November 20, 2012

Council approves contracts for museum, waterfront park
 The City Council this afternoon approved two construction contracts totaling nearly \$12 million to move forward with the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, and Biloxi Waterfront Park.
 It was, Director of Administration David Staehling said, "an act of conclusion today during the City Council meeting, when we looked at the funding, we looked at the options, and we came to agreement on moving forward."
 The two projects will be funded by FEMA and insurance proceeds, and \$250,000 in city funding.
 The first contract approved was \$7.4 million to G&M Construction of Bay St. Louis for the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, and the second, for Biloxi Waterfront Park, was for Orocon Construction of Biloxi for \$4.2 million.
 Both projects will be on city property north of the Biloxi Bay Bridge and are expected to be under construction by the end of the year.
 The new museum will be a 19,500-square-foot edifice whose focal point will be a historic sailing vessel that will be visible through the three-story glass wall facing the Biloxi Bay Bridge. It's designed to play on the "ship in a bottle" concept in a building that will also feature maritime exhibits, meeting space and a seafood kitchen.
 The waterfront park, meanwhile, will feature a pavilion, a boardwalk, splash pad and playground.
 Said Staehling: "This has been one of the most complex projects that the city has undertaken post-Katrina. There was talk about moving to another site, there's been discussion about what we could afford and what we couldn't afford, and now we've overcome every obstacle, pitfall and impediment that stood in our way."
 Photos: To see photographs from today's City Council meeting, [click here](#).

Joe Boney: From the front lines of the Sandy recovery
 Joe Boney, the Biloxi Fire Department battalion chief who is volunteering time in the Sandy recovery zone, discussed what he and his colleagues are seeing during an interview on WLOX this afternoon.
 To see the interview, courtesy of WLOX Digital Content Director Renee Johnson, [click here](#).

Released by Vincent Croel, Public Affairs Manager, City of Biloxi

The City of Biloxi does not send unsolicited email. If your e-mail address has been submitted by mistake, or if at anytime you wish to discontinue receiving city e-news, click on "Safe Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this e-mail. On behalf of Mayor Holloway and the City Council, thank you for your interest in your city government.

Mayor A.J. Holloway
 City Council: George Lawrence, William "Bill" Stalworth, Larry Demm, Clark Smith, Tom Wall, Edward "Ed" Gemmill, David Feyard

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We deliver.

Anybody can have a site on the World Wide Web, but there's only one that delivers news exclusively about the City of Biloxi directly to you. It's biloxi.ms.us.

Don't wait until a storm threatens to get vital information about your community. Get it now. Delivered directly to you and for free. In the four years since Katrina, the city has e-mailed more than 2 1/2 million storm-recovery updates to Biloxians and an audience around the globe. Information on a host of local issues and projects, as well as details about special meetings and events of community interest. These e-mails and the city website are your No. 1 source of information on all things Biloxi.

Visit the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us and click on Bmail on the left side of the screen. It takes only a few seconds to sign up, and you'll be in the loop - and in the know.

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