How Will This Program Affect Me?

The information collected through the wet weather monitoring program will provide continual information on the vitality of the County's waterways. Ultimately, this information will be used to help inform everyone in the County as to their influence on the health of our rivers, lakes and streams. Every one of us has an impact on our natural environment and contributes to pollution in our waterways. The purpose of the development of the monitoring program is to identify those pollutants and provide educational information to residents, workers, and business owners as to how they can reduce their impact to the environment. These educational programs will be coming soon, so keep an eye out!

We all play a role in the health of our community; through research, information and technological developments, the County wants to provide the most accurate information to its residents as to how we can all become better stewards of the environment and preserve the beauty of Richland County for generations to come.

The Dripster says "Stormwater...Let's Keep it Clean"

CONTACT US...

**Richland County Department
of Public Works**

**Stormwater Hotline:
(803) 576-3599**

Internet: http://www.richlandonline.com/
departments/publicworks/NPDES_Construction.asp

**South Carolina Department
of Health and Environmental Control
Phone: (803) 898-4300**

Internet: http://www.scdhec.net/
environment/water/swerfmain.htm

Wet Weather Monitoring Program

Introduction

As part of the federal government's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) program, administered in South Carolina by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Richland County is required to apply stormwater pollution control measures. In particular, Richland County must identify key pollutants that are prevalent in the existing waterways and develop programs to reduce these pollutants. A comprehensive program of identification, reduction and monitoring is currently underway in your neighborhood!

In this brochure you will learn what steps the County is taking to identify and monitor storm water runoff throughout the County through the wet weather monitoring program.

What Is Wet Weather Monitoring?

Wet weather monitoring involves the collection and testing of storm water runoff during storm events. Once a rainfall event begins, automated rainfall data collectors begin recording the amount of rainfall. A composite sample of runoff is collected and analyzed to determine the types of pollution in the water. This sample includes collecting the "first flush" as well as a distributed sample throughout the rainfall event. The collection of "first flush", or typically the first half-inch of runoff during a storm event, is important in that this provides information related to what type of pollutants are being washed into the stormwater system. The first flush typically contains higher levels of pollutants that have been deposited on the ground between rain events. This includes pet waste, oil and grease deposited in parking lots and on roadways

from vehicles, excess fertilizers that are not absorbed by vegetation, and pollutants that settle out of the atmosphere. Leaves and yard waste that accumulates in waterways can lead to High biological oxygen demand (BOD) - a chemical procedure defining how fast organisms use up oxygen - resulting in less oxygen available for fish and other organisms to survive. Very high BOD levels will result in fish kills and ecologically "dead" systems.

Where Is Monitoring Taking Place?

Richland County has identified, developed and installed twelve (12) individual stations to monitor this wet weather runoff throughout the County. These stations are located throughout the County's three major watersheds. These stations are also dispersed through different development areas of the County, including:

- Low Density Residential Areas
- Medium Density Residential Areas
- High Density Residential Areas
- Commercial Areas
- Industrial Areas

What Can This Data Tell Us?

With this program collecting data throughout different areas and watershed in the County, the resulting information can be used to tailor specific pollution reduction programs for different sites and neighborhoods. The county can use this data to target outreach efforts in specific areas in correlation to the most prevalent pollutants. Additionally, in commercial areas, vehicle runoff, including oils and greases, may be a more prevalent pollutant than pet waste. By identifying specific problems through the wet weather monitoring program, educational programs can be targets to specific communities, neighborhoods and businesses.

Data are currently being collected to develop a baseline level of "pollutants of concern" in the County's waterways. As monitoring continues, the County will begin implementation of educational programs specific to each pollutant and local community.