

Stormwater

The stormwater system is under the umbrella of the Cherokee County Government of which Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) works closely. The Cherokee County Stormwater Division's role is to inspect, map, inventory, regulate, and design stormwater infrastructure. CCWSA does the water quality monitoring throughout the watershed on the waterways that storm drain structures empty into. Monitoring occurs during normal flow and high flow that has a significant amount of stormwater. All sites are targeted for at least one high flow sample a year to see effects of stormwater. Stormwater flow inevitably transmits debris from upstream to downstream properties. This flow and debris transfer naturally occurs via sheet flow and concentrated flow; concentrated flow conveys through ditches, piping, streams, etc. This debris consists of vegetative material, fertilizers, animal waste, pesticides, automotive fluids litter and more. This is a natural occurrence in stormwater conveyances and infrastructure. Increased landscaping maintenance and debris removal on upstream properties does help prevent this occurrence; however, Cherokee County cannot enforce these measures on private property owners.

Let's answer some basic question about stormwater. We asked Ben Morgan, Cherokee County Stormwater Manager, to help answer some important questions.

What is the purpose and function of the stormdrain system? The general function of the storm drain system is to provide county-wide drainage during rain events. The county has approximately 38,000 control structures, 400 miles of pipe, 560 miles of ditch, 1000 stormwater ponds, and 112 Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development stormwater facilities.

Is there a regular inspection and cleaning schedule in place? The County regularly inspects and maintains drainage structures located in the right of way. The County maintains storm drainage under and in close proximity to the road. Subdivisions with curb and gutter have a total 50' Right of Way (see graphic). Outside of the right of way, it is the current property owners (including HOA's) responsibility to inspect and maintain storm drainage infrastructure. This includes pipes, stormwater ponds (facilities), drainage easements, etc. More information on this can be found at <https://www.cherokeega.com/Stormwater-Management/index.php>

Why is it important not to put leaves and debris down the stormdrain? Placing leaves and debris in the stormdrain can clog the drains and impede overall functionality. This can cause backups/flooding.

What alternatives do you recommend to putting leaves and debris down the stormdrain? Alternatives include bagging landscaping debris in regular trash service approved biodegradable bags or legal disposal at a state approved landfill.

Where can I report a stormdrain problem?

Stormwater or erosion problems can be emailed to stormwater@cherokeega.com or by filling out a complaint form online at <https://www.cherokeega.com/Stormwater-Management/report-a-complaint/>. The more information received in the email or complaint form the better. Please provide the closest address of the occurrence and pictures if available.