



## 01 OZONE ALERT!

TAKE ACTION ON OZONE ALERT! DAYS

With summer comes Tulsa's Ozone Alert! season. Although ozone is a protective element in the upper atmosphere, it can cause health problems when it's in the air we breathe at ground level.

Ground-level ozone forms when emissions from sources such as cars, trucks, gasoline-powered equipment, and household paints, stains and solvents, combine with other pollutants and "cook" in the heat and sunlight.

When air pollution and weather conditions favor the formation of unhealthy ozone, Tulsa issues an Ozone Alert! On those days, children, the elderly and individuals with asthma are especially at risk. You can help reduce ozone in the following ways:

- **AVOID IDLING**
- **DRIVE LESS - work remotely, take the bus, or carpool**
- **DELAY YARD WORK - electric tools are OK**
- **REFUEL AT NIGHT or the next day**

Sign up to receive Ozone Alert! Day text notifications by texting the word "AIR" to "41372." For hourly ozone data and more information about how you can help, please visit [www.tulsaairquality.com](http://www.tulsaairquality.com) or scan the QR code.



# CITY LIFE

JULY 2023

## IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

01

### HELP REDUCE OZONE

On Ozone Alert! days, drive less and avoid using gas-powered lawn tools.

02

### KEEP STREAMS CLEAN

Prevent stormwater pollution. Storm drains lead to creeks and rivers.

03

### USING WATER WISELY

Here are ways to conserve water both inside and outside your house.

04

### FOCUS ON STORMWATER

Low Impact Development uses techniques that absorb and filter stormwater.

+ **PLUS: PREPARE FOR SUMMER HEAT HEALTH RISKS.**

[WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG) | [TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG](mailto:TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG) | CALL 311



## 02 SAVE OUR STREAMS

KEEP STORM DRAINS POLLUTANT-FREE

The City of Tulsa's storm drain system is the series of outside drains located in our streets that route rainwater to creeks, lakes and rivers. The water that goes into these drains is not cleaned or treated before it reaches them. This makes it very important to not let pollutants spill on the ground and enter our storm drain system.

City workers regularly monitor the system for pollution. Crews also routinely remove debris from storm drains to prevent water from backing up into streets and homes. It is illegal to introduce pollutants into the system. Pollutants include lawn chemicals, car fluids, soaps, leaves and grass, pet waste and basically anything that isn't pure rainwater.

It is important to protect the quality and control the quantity of the water flowing into the drainage system. Here are steps you can take to protect Tulsa's creeks and reduce flood risks:

- **Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks. Don't pour used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other pollutants into storm drains. Storm drains are for rain.**
- **Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer, throw it in the trash or bury it in the yard to prevent harmful bacteria from entering our storm drain system.**
- **Use a mulching mower or bag grass and leaves instead of blowing them into streets. Yard wastes clog storm drains and deplete oxygen in the water. Fish need oxygen to survive.**
- **Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read labels to determine how much and when to apply. The Master Gardener program has volunteers trained to answer questions about pesticides and fertilizers. Call the Master Gardener Hotline at (918) 746-3701 or visit: [www.tulsamastergardeners.org](http://www.tulsamastergardeners.org)**
- **Pick up litter around your home or business so that it doesn't collect on drain inlets or cause pipes to clog.**
- **Report storm drain issues such as blockage, improper disposal of yard wastes and/or illegal fluid discharges by calling 311 or sending an email to [Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org)**

## 03 WATER CONSERVATION

### SMALL STEPS CAN SAVE WATER, MONEY

Although the City of Tulsa has a plentiful water supply, residents can still take steps to reduce their water usage. Saving water around your home is simple and smart. Minor adjustments to your house and your behavior can work wonders. Here are a few tips to conserve water:

Inside:

- **Fix leaks immediately. A faucet leak can waste 20 gallons per day; a toilet leak can waste 200 gallons per day.**
- **Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving to save 5 to 8 gallons per day.**
- **Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath to save 50 gallons of water. If you take a bath, plug the tub immediately and adjust water temperature as the tub fills.**
- **Installing low-flow faucet aerators, faucets, shower heads and toilets can reduce water usage by 5 to 20 percent. Look for WaterSense® labeled devices.**
- **Replace old dishwashers or washing machines with new ENERGY STAR® models. If you can't replace machines, wash only full loads of dishes and clothes, or lower the water temperature setting.**

Outside:

- **Water in the morning to prevent water loss by evaporation. Avoid watering when it is windy.**
- **Maintain or upgrade your automatic irrigation system to reduce water waste. Check sprinkler patterns to make sure you're not watering the street or sidewalk.**
- **Use a hose nozzle with shut-off when watering manually, and use soaker hoses for trees and shrubs.**
- **Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of a water hose.**
- **Use climate-appropriate and native species in landscaping. Use mulch around plants to help reduce evaporation.**

More tips: [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

## BEAT THE HEAT

### KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN TEMPS SOAR

Tulsa's social service and government agencies work together each summer to monitor heat conditions and minimize the effects of high temperatures on residents' health. Still, it's important for all Tulsans to know how to handle the heat.

People of all ages who work or play outdoors are vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. Even in-shape athletes can fall victim to the heat.

Children and the elderly especially can be affected, warns the Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA). Be sure to call or visit older, at-risk adults twice a day to check if they are experiencing symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. If their home is too hot or you are worried about their transportation options, take them to air-conditioned locations.

EMSA cautions parents, caretakers and athletic coaches to take the heat seriously and understand that Oklahoma's hot temperatures can be deadly.

Vigorous outdoor activities, including football practices and similar activities, should be interspersed with frequent cooling breaks and participants should drink water or sports drinks. Also, avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps.

Call 911 immediately if you see the symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke in a relative, friend, co-worker or yourself. Also, supervisors and workers who work outdoors in extremely hot environments should watch for heat-related symptoms and illnesses and call for medical assistance if needed.



## 04 MANAGING STORMWATER

### CONSIDER LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

While flood control is an immediate concern when it rains, it is important also to remember stormwater quality. Impervious surfaces such as pavement and roofs cause stormwater to pick up pollutants and flow more quickly to creeks, rivers and lakes.

Low Impact Development is a design approach that helps protect water resources by using techniques that absorb and filter stormwater. Use Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to prevent or reduce flooding on your property.

Here are ways you can apply Low Impact Development:

**Install a rain garden:** Plant native vegetation in an area where it will capture stormwater runoff from rooftops, lawns and pavement.

**Disconnect downspouts:** Direct gutter drains into landscaped areas to reduce irrigation needs or connect a rainwater harvesting system, such as a rain barrel, and store the water for future use.

**Reduce runoff from driveways and patios:** Minimize width and length of driveways and size of patios, and/or use permeable pavers to allow stormwater to soak into the ground rather than run off your lot.



Scan the QR code for more information on Low Impact Development.