

WATER QUALITY – GET INVOLVED

Many people seem to think that maintaining the quality of Little Bay is the responsibility of local governments, their staff and engineers, and that most of our pollution comes from the waste water treatment plant. But, the truth of the matter is that the long-term quality of Little Bay, and the surrounding waterways, depends on all of us.

Every day our actions have the potential to release pollutants that will ultimately enter Little Bay through our stormwater drains. These drains do not have traps or cleansing apparatus, so it's not surprising when clean-up teams find anything from leaves, grass clippings and branches to cigarette butts, plastic bags and beer cans.

What we don't easily see are some of the other major pollutants that enter the waterways via hard rain, water run-off from the sprinklers in our yard and from doing simple chores like washing the car or changing the oil in our cars. This excess water carries with it pet waste, fertilizer, septic overflow, chemicals, motor oil and more.

Because of our high water tables, it's important that you have your septic tank checked regularly to ensure that waste isn't seeping into the ground and into our bays. group (...our bays?) And, if you are on the City's sewer line and can smell waste, contact the Public Works Department immediately.

Being water quality-conscious doesn't just stop at your home. Make sure that your vehicles (cars, trucks and even boats) are in good operating condition and not leaking oil or other fluids.

If you see debris in a parking lot, pick it up and take it to the closest trash receptacle. If the receptacle is full, bring it to someone's immediate attention be it a store, park or restaurant. These simple efforts will go a long way in preventing objects from blowing into the storm drains

or along the banks of the bays.

If you would like to take a more pro-active approach, contact Keep Rockport Beautiful about “adopt a spot” locations (visit the City Web site at www.cityofrockport.com) or contact City Hall to learn about clean-up events in the area.

As residents of Rockport, we get to enjoy its natural beauty and abundant wildlife on a daily basis. We haven’t had the problems that major industrial and highly populated areas have to deal with on a daily basis – like contaminated fish, major beach closings, and limits on seafood consumption.

Nevertheless, we should not become complacent. Tainted waters in other parts of the country were once clean, fishable and swimmable. Let’s all do our part to preserve our resources for ourselves, our family, visitors and future generations.