

# Landowner Fact Sheet

## Five “Good Housekeeping” Practices



Excerpt from the  
Long Creek Watershed  
Management Plan  
Page 47:

*“Pollution Prevention Toolbox 4: Private Facility Inspection & Maintenance Program—Private commercial facilities should provide annual documentation of good housekeeping, maintenance and inspection for stormwater infrastructure, pavement and post-construction BMPs. Good housekeeping reporting would include, at a minimum, dumpster location and management, hazardous materials handling and storage, landscape management BMPs, pavement sealing schedule and materials, winter deicer applications and pavement shading efforts. Annual maintenance requirements would include catch basin cleaning, pipe inspections and stormwater post-construction BMP maintenance if necessary. Inspection requirements would include stormwater management infrastructure and outfall stability evaluations.”*

Find More Fact Sheets  
Online at:  
[www.restorelongcreek.org](http://www.restorelongcreek.org)

### What is “Good Housekeeping”?

“Good housekeeping” means using best management practices (BMPs) that help to ensure a reduction in the amount and type of pollution that enters waterways, catch basins, and ditches. Good housekeeping BMPs include a wide range of pollution prevention measures. These five BMPs are quick and easy ways Long Creek landowners can pitch in.

#### 1. Controlling Erosion

Soil particles (eroding and deposited) can pollute our waterways and create public safety issues. Bare soil should be vegetated or mulched to stabilize it and prevent erosion and sedimentation. If not addressed, soil erosion can undermine parking lots, driveways, and other infrastructure.

Get ahead of the problem by vegetating slopes or stabilizing them with appropriately sized, angular stone. Use salt tolerant plants instead of grass in areas where winter salt is used. In the long term, it costs less to prevent erosion or control it when it starts.



Never leave bare soil exposed when you see erosion either cover it with erosion control mulch or seed it with grass.

#### 2. Prevent Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping of oil, chemicals, hazardous materials and other discharges is a crime, but it is still a fairly common practice. Deter illegal dumping by:

- Posting signs that warn of the penalties for dumping.
- Using security cameras, lighting, and other methods to increase the likelihood of detection.

Be aware that illegal dumping may include disposal of liquid waste into catch basins, such as from RVs or mop water.

For more information on spill control and reporting, see our “Spill, Prevention, Control, and Reporting” fact sheet on our website:

<http://www.restorelongcreek.org/CMSContent/documents/fact-sheets/20160805%20Spill%20Prevention%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>



These drains flow to Long Creek

**IF YOU SEE DUMPING  
PLEASE CALL  
892-4700  
FOR ASSISTANCE**

[www.RestoreLongCreek.org](http://www.RestoreLongCreek.org)



## Good Housekeeping is an Important Investment:

*The Long Creek Watershed Management District provides some good housekeeping services to participating landowners, including:*

- ◆ *Pavement Sweeping*
- ◆ *Catch Basin Cleanout*

*However, sweeping and catch basin cleaning can only go so far to counteract sediment accumulation due to poor site management. Long Creek landowners can do their part as well.*

**Participating Landowners:** You can help educate patrons and visitors about your important contributions to the Long Creek Restoration Project by posting one of these signs or stenciling your storm drains.



This landowner is helping

# RESTORE LONG CREEK

[www.RestoreLongCreek.org](http://www.RestoreLongCreek.org)

### 3. Yard Waste Management

Waste generated from landscaping practices should be composted, preferably:

- In place;
- In a contained area; and
- Far from any ditches, drains, and Long Creek.
- **NEVER** dump landscape waste into wetlands or on top of catch basins!!

If a suitable spot cannot be located on your property, the best option may be transporting landscape waste and debris off site for disposal.

Be aware that plant debris from stormwater systems might contain toxic substances and should not be used to grow food crops after composting.



This compost pile is located away from the stream and ditches or drains.

### 4. Dumpster and Litter Management

Dumpsters require simple management practices in order to keep waste contained and out of Long Creek. FMI—see “Dumpster Management” fact sheet on our website.

- **Empty regularly!** Be sure dumpsters and trash cans are emptied before they get too full.
- **Keep it covered!** Be sure dumpster lids are kept closed at all times.
- **Prime Positioning!** Be sure they are not too close to buildings that lids could become stuck open position when emptying, and away from storm drains and catch basins.
- **Limit Liquids!** Liquids, like fats, oils and grease (FOG), should be collected separately in FOG Storage Container (or rendering tank). FMI—see “FOG” fact sheet on our website.

If unauthorized dumping is a problem, lock dumpsters, especially at night.

### 5. Snow Storage

Large piles of snow often include sand, salt, litter, and other debris that runs off in melt water, carrying pollutants into catch basins, storm drains and eventually into Long Creek.

- **WHENEVER POSSIBLE** snow piles should be stored on paved areas so that debris can be swept up and disposed of after melting. If snow is stored on a vegetated area, be sure to select a location far from any wetland.
- **NEVER** store snow directly over catch basins. Storing snow uphill of storm drains allows debris to drop out before meltwater enters the stormwater system.
- **NEVER** store or plow snow directly into Long Creek, a wetland or adjacent floodplain.

### Long Creek Signage and Stencils

Clear attractive signage or stencils on a property are helpful to convey pollution prevention information to tenants, patrons and visitors who interact with drainage system, but often may not realize that these structures drain to Long Creek.

Long Creek Watershed Management District has created a few messages that landowners can use to create educational signage for their properties, which are available in high-resolution files on the website. Stencils are also available to mark the pavement around catch basins. If you would like to borrow a stencil, please call us at 892-4700.

### Long Creek Watershed Management District

Managed by: Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District  
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