

4.5 WATER QUALITY EDUCATION

There are opportunities for everyone living along the Gulf Coast to help protect the quality of water resources. Even very simple changes in how landscaping is maintained, pet waste and ordinary household hazardous waste are disposed of, and how septic systems are maintained, make a difference downstream from a homeowner's property. Ideas presented in this section implemented at the neighborhood scale can have beneficial effects on managing stormwater volumes and improving runoff quality.

The performance standards require that a recipient of a development permit participate in a water quality education program using Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and other recommended water quality education materials that focus on water quality protection and drainage management. The development project manager shall contact the approving entity as the permitted project nears construction completion to initiate the education process. The materials and/or website will be shared with the builders and real estate agents to promote the transfer of materials to the resident, homeowner, or building manager.

Water quality education will promote limited chemical use, proper storage of chemicals, disposal of animal waste, low water demand landscapes, septic system maintenance, and good housekeeping practices to minimize watershed residents' impact to the receiving waterbody. Education activities include:

- The jurisdictional stormwater authority will provide education materials to new residents at the time of occupying their home or establishment.
- Sharing the GLO NPS website with the developer and real estate sales staff to provide to homeowners, residents, and building operators.
- Education events sponsored by the GLO, TCEQ, and other agencies that promote creek and beach cleanups, roadside trash collection days, and adoption of creeks, beaches and highways.
- Household hazardous waste collection events.

The NPS website link can be found at <https://cleancoast.texas.gov/>.