



Did you know that 70 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States is used to power buildings?

With this in mind, in 2003 the City of Dallas adopted the **Green Building Program** to promote building **green** in the city. In the spring 2003, the City of Dallas formed a **Green Building Task Force** to develop a program that would encourage or **require green** building practices throughout the city. The task force developed the **Green Building Ordinance**. In April 2008, the City of Dallas became the first major city in the nation to pass comprehensive **green** building standards for both residential and commercial construction. Since 2008, the City has built 18 **Green** buildings with various Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications.

What constitutes a **green** building? A **green** building is a building that conserves water and energy use, minimizes waste materials, improves air quality, reduces stormwater impacts on the environment, and preserves natural resources. These may sound like lofty aspirations, but some of them can be easily achieved. Simple things like using natural light to illuminate an area or water-wise landscaping are **green** building practices. The biggest benefit to building **green** is the amount of resources saved. **Green** buildings can reduce energy use by 24 to 50 percent, water use by 40 percent, and solid waste by up to 70 percent. As you can see, a lot of resources can be saved by building **green**.

The **Green Building Ordinance** is divided into two phases. The first phase went into effect October 1, 2009. It focused on energy efficiency, water conservation, and cool roofs for proposed projects less than 50,000 square feet. The second phase became effective October 1, 2011 and affects all proposed building projects in the City of Dallas. All new projects in the City have to be certifiable by LEED, **Green** Built North Texas, or an equivalent **green** building standard.

The City of Dallas is boldly committing itself to a future in which strong environmental ethics foster a healthy urban lifestyle. So, whether you are a developer or a citizen planning new construction, you are responsible for helping the City be the **'GREENEST'** city in the nation.

For more information, visit online at [www.GreenDallas.net](http://www.GreenDallas.net) and click on the **Green Buildings** section. To view the **Green Building Ordinance**, visit [www.dallascityhall.com/building\\_inspection/index.html](http://www.dallascityhall.com/building_inspection/index.html)

## My Connection with the Trinity River: The Sean Fitzgerald Story

For the past two years, there has been one local photographer who has received the most awards from the Trinity River Photo Contest. Sean has received twelve awards including the Grand Prize in last year's contest. This amazing photographer did not even own a camera for the first 25 years of his life and began taking pictures as a hobby while trekking the trails in Texas. Sean Fitzgerald is that local photographer and this is his story.



Sean Fitzgerald

What is your connection to the Trinity River? I have been lucky enough to photograph nature and environmental subjects widely, including some of the most incredible parks and private ranches in all of Texas. But I always had to travel hundreds of miles to get to those areas. Living in Deep Ellum, I decided to see what was here right in my own backyard. I soon found a diversity of life and beauty that I did not entirely expect, but have quickly come to really love, especially because it is right here, in my hometown, just miles from my back door.

What do you think of when you hear someone say, "the Trinity River?" Before I started exploring it, I thought it was a nasty urban river that was kind of pretty when it flooded, but otherwise something to be avoided. Having seen and explored remote areas and photographed the area through the seasons, I have done a 180 degree turn. The place is amazing!

Continued on page 2

## S. Fitzgerald Story

*Continued from page 1*

In your experience, what are people's reactions to spending part of their day on the Trinity River?

I work with the Trinity River Audubon Center quite a bit and I never fail to see excited kids with huge smiles exploring a brand new world. I get a similar response when I make a presentation on the Trinity River ecosystem to a group — people just can't believe what is down there!

How have you seen the Trinity River change during your time on it?

Accessibility is starting to improve for sure. And I think that, slowly but surely, people are starting to see it as a real asset to the city. The Trinity River and the surrounding areas are great right now — we just have to make it easier for people to get down there and start discovering it!

What do you want people to know about the Trinity River?

It is there, waiting for us to discover it. Start with the Trinity River Audubon Center and start exploring all the trails and displays. Go to the new Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. Park and watch the sunset on the river and downtown. Sign up for a weekend canoe trip. After a little while, you can't help but start to feel a little pride and a sense of ownership.



*To see more of Sean's work, check out the Trinity River Photo Contest page at <http://hweborigin1.dallascityhall.com:8080/trinityContest/> or <http://www.seanfitzgerald.com/>*

It looks like you have spent a lot of time around the Trinity River, what have you learned about the river?

I don't like to speak just in terms of the river. Canoeing the river is great fun and it really is beautiful in its own way. But the surrounding ecosystem is what makes it really incredible. From the huge thick forests, to beautiful patches of prairie, to truly incredible wetlands and overflow ponds brimming with a huge variety of life — this is where our Trinity really comes alive. I have seen it through all seasons: seen it

move from drought to flood in the wink of an eye. I have watched coyotes howling in the snow, seen a mother and baby beavers swim around me, watched wood storks and barred owls and just about every other kind of bird you can imagine. The Trinity is always revealing itself, albeit slowly, for those who are willing to look.

*This is a continuation in a series of articles that features local Dallasites and their connection to the Trinity River. If you or someone you know wants to be considered as an interview subject in this series, contact us at 214.948.4022 or email [stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com).*



Autumn is here and everyone is getting ready for cooler temperatures. Beautiful colored leaves fall and cover our lawns and begin to release nutrients and fertilize the yard. That process is great for our lawns, but what happens when those leaves get into our storm drains?

When leaves enter our storm drains, they can cause a few problems. The leaves can cause a blockage in our storm drain and when it rains, it can cause flooding in our streets. Also, when the leaves get into our storm drain system, they travel to the nearest creek, pond, lake, or river. Although it is a good idea to let the leaves release their nutrients into our lawns to help fertilize, it is not a good idea for the nutrients to release into our bodies of water. The same nutrients that fertilize our lawn, feed the algae in our waters. Algae can de-

plete a water body of oxygen and also prevent sunlight from getting to underwater plants. When the oxygen is depleted then the fish and other creatures that live in the waterways can die.

Here are a few tips for proper yard waste management:

- Leaves should be mowed and mulched into the yard.
  - Your lawn can take quite a volume of mulch before there is excess.
  - Excess mulch would be when the lawn is completely covered with leaves.

- At the point of excess, the leaves should still be mulched, but picked up and put into the flower beds and/or vegetable gardens.
- When there is no more mulch needed for the flower beds and/or vegetable gardens, the rest should be put into a compost pile.

*If you have any questions regarding yard waste, email the Stormwater Management Outreach team at [stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com)*



# JUST FOR KIDS . . . BIG and small



**ASK ME,  
TRINITY  
TRUDY**

**When and why does the City of Dallas implement watering restrictions?**

Every year from April 1 to October 31, the City of Dallas restricts lawn and landscape irrigation practices within the city to prevent waste of valuable water resources. The City mandates that water be used for lawn and landscape irrigation in a manner that prevents waste, conserves water resources for their most beneficial and vital uses, and protects the public health.

The watering restriction basically requires **no** lawn or landscape watering between the hours of **10:00 a.m.** and **6:00 p.m.**

Another very important reason not to water lawns during the restricted hours of the day is that the water actually damages the lawn instead of improving it. During the peak heat hours of the day, each water droplet acts like a tiny magnifying glass on each blade of grass intensifying the sun's light and burning the lawn. So instead of helping the lawn to grow, the water is ultimately killing the grass and creating runoff from the lawn. As the water runs off the lawn, it picks up and carries the applied lawn chemicals directly into the storm drain inlets and eventually in to the nearest creek, river, lake, or stream completely **untreated**.

During the **HOT** summer months, lawn chemicals have a greater negative impact on our bodies of water when the water levels are so low.

Though there may not be a lot of stormwater runoff from rain events during the summer months; lawn water runoff goes to the same place and has the same negative impact, if polluted.

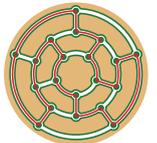
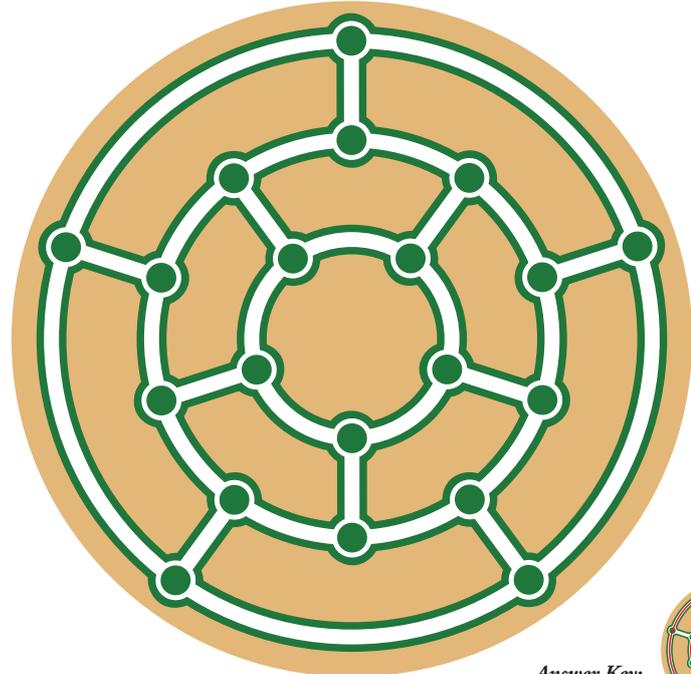
**Remember, stormwater and lawn water runoff both go with the flow, so keep them clean!**

For more information regarding the City of Dallas Water Conservation Ordinance, visit [http://www.greendallas.net/pdfs/h20Conservation\\_Ordinance.pdf](http://www.greendallas.net/pdfs/h20Conservation_Ordinance.pdf)

If you have a stormwater question for Trinity Trudy, email her at [stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com). Look for her responses in future issues of "Inside the Inlet."

## Give Me 20 !

The object of the puzzle below is to visit **ALL** the 20 green points on the graph. You can start at any point, but can only visit each point once. Moving from point to point, you can only travel along the white lines (alleys). To complete your journey, you have to finish at your starting point.



*Answer Key:  
One of the possible paths is shown at right.*

## Tips & Drops Upcoming Events

### October

**27-30** Birds of Paraguay Photo Exhibit  
Trinity River Audubon Center  
[www.trinityriveraudubon.org](http://www.trinityriveraudubon.org)

**28** Carpe Diem Fishing Tournament at Trinity River  
[www.trinitycommonsfoundation.org](http://www.trinitycommonsfoundation.org)

### November

**6** Daylight Saving Time ends

**11** Veteran's Day

**15** Texas Recycles Day  
Dallas Arboretum

American Recycles Day  
[www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)

**24** Thanksgiving Day

Turkey Trot  
[www.thetrot.org](http://www.thetrot.org)

### December

**3** Capital One Bank Adolphus Children's Parade in Downtown Dallas  
<http://www.childrensmedicalcenterdallas.com/parade/get-involved/>

**15 - 5/31/12**  
Photo Exhibit of 2009-2010 Trinity River Photo Contest Winners  
Dallas Museum of Nature & Science  
[www.natureandscience.org](http://www.natureandscience.org)

**21** Trinity Strand Jingle Bell Run  
Design District  
[www.dallasjinglebellrun.com](http://www.dallasjinglebellrun.com)

**22** First Day of Winter

# Volunteer Spotlight



"If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make that change!" We all know this famous lyric from Michael Jackson's *Man in the Mirror* song. It is also the approach that the residents of the Casa View Haven neighborhood take when it comes to making their neighborhood a better place to live.

Casa View Haven Neighborhood Association (CVHNA) exists to improve the quality of life, sense of community, and pride in their neighborhood. CVHNA is striving to attract neighborhood participation and pride.

Where do we start is the question that the president of the CVHNA asked of the City of Dallas Stormwater Management Outreach team.

In August 2011, the CVHNA decided to mark all of the storm drain inlets in their entire neighborhood with permanent placards that reminds citizens that stormwater is **not** treated and the storm drain inlets are **not** trash cans.

Initially, eight excited neighbors volunteered to mark 76 inlets. When the word got out and other neighbors saw what was being done, the excitement grew and so did the number of volunteers. Over the Labor Day holiday weekend, 17 neighbors worked hard to mark over 180 inlets.

Now everyone who comes into the Casa View Haven neighborhood knows that the storm drain inlets drain directly to the area creeks in the Casa View Haven neighborhood.

The Storm Drain Marking volunteer program is a very enjoyable and rewarding program. Volunteers select an area of the City where they would like to mark storm drains and the Stormwater Management Outreach team provides the training and the supplies.

*Stormwater Management extends a big **THANK YOU** to the Casa View Haven Neighborhood Association for their participation in spreading our stormwater pollution prevention message.*

*To inquire about marking storm drain inlets in your neighborhood, contact a Stormwater Management Outreach team member at 214.948.4022 or email us at [stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com).*

## Enforcement Activities

Stormwater Management conducts construction site inspections and offers education to site operators to...

- Promote stormwater compliance with the Clean Water Act
- Correct and modify behavior
- Enhance water quality

If after inspections and education, sites remain non-compliant, Stormwater's Enforcement team issues Notice of Violations (NOVs) and Citations. Outside complaints will also be filed by the City Attorney. These complaints have associated fines and penalties up to \$2000 per violation if the sites are not brought into compliance.

## Enforcement Results

Projects	Violations	Fines
Davis Street	•BMPs	\$900 + CC
Eagle Ford Drive	•BMPs	\$1,500 + CC
R. L. Thorton	•BMPs	\$2,000 + CC
Rhodes Road	•BMPs •Stabilization Issues	Pending

BMPs - Best Management Practices

CC - Court Cost

The table above lists some of Stormwater's enforcement settlements.

*If you see any violations, please call 311.*



### FACT:

**Yard waste washed down our storm drainage system is a form of pollution and accounts for a fifth of all garbage generated in the U.S. each year.**

- Yard waste decomposes in local creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River causing algae to grow.
- Too much algae lowers the amount of oxygen in the water which may suffocate aquatic and plant life.

### Did you know . . .

Sweeping or blowing yard waste into the street and storm drainage system could cost you up to \$2000?

### TIPS:

- Sweep or blow grass clippings from your sidewalk, driveway, and street back onto your yard. Yard clippings act as a natural fertilizer.
- Fallen leaves should be raked or blown from your yard, sidewalk, driveway, and street, collected then bagged and placed for collection during your bulk waste collection week.
- Compost your grass clippings and leaves; they can serve as a natural fertilizer.

### FYI Readers:

Stormwater Management is here to serve and meet the needs of our valued readers. For additional information regarding the following:

- General stormwater information
- Construction and Industrial workshops
- Presentations about stormwater pollution prevention or permitting requirements

### Contact us at:

Stormwater Management  
320 E. Jefferson Blvd., Room 108  
Dallas, TX 75203  
214-948-4022 (phone)  
214-948-4076 (fax)  
[stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com)  
[www.wheredoesitgo.com](http://www.wheredoesitgo.com)

## City of Dallas Stormwater Outreach Leadership

### Kelly High

Director  
Trinity Watershed Management

### Rebecca Rasor, P.E.

Assistant Director  
Trinity Watershed Management

### Susan Alvarez, P.E.

Senior Program Manager

### Hazel Roper, SPHR

Program Support and Outreach Manager

### Sonya Batts

Outreach Program Coordinator

Publication No. 11-12:02