

## Green is Going Mobile



Household hazardous waste is a term used to describe the old paint cans, spare batteries, motor oil, cleaning products, and other materials you may have around your home that may contain hazardous chemicals.

Have you ever wondered what to do with the household hazardous waste that you have around your house?

### HAVE NO FEAR THE BOPA MOBILE IS HERE!

The City of Dallas BOPA Mobile is a mobile recycling collection center that collects household hazardous waste that can be recycled, but cannot be placed in the trash can or the recycle bin.

The **BOPA Mobile** accepts **B**atteries, motor **O**il/oil filters, latex **P**aint, and **A**ntifreeze.

There are limits to what the **BOPA Mobile** can accept. The maximum amount of latex paint, motor oil, or antifreeze that can be dropped off per household per day is 25 gallons. Containers larger than 5-gallons will **NOT** be accepted. The maximum weight of the total amount of batteries that can be dropped off is 50 pounds. (The average car battery weighs about 40 pounds.) Palletized batteries will **NOT** be accepted.

The mobile recycling unit will be at the **Southwest Center Mall** (3663 W. Camp Wisdom Road) every 4th Saturday of each month from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This monthly schedule provides Dallas residents greater convenience to recycle their household hazardous waste.

If you miss the **BOPA Mobile** on the 4th Saturday and you can't wait until the next month, you can always take your household hazardous waste, including BOPA items to the:

**Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center**  
11234 Plano Road, Dallas, TX 75243  
214-553-1765

The **BOPA Mobile** is a **FREE** drop off service offered to residents of the city of Dallas and Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center member cities. Remember to bring proof of residence (water bill or driver's license) when you drop off your **BOPA** recyclables.

For more information, visit the City of Dallas' Waste Diversion website [www.DontWasteToday.com](http://www.DontWasteToday.com).

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### My Connection with the Trinity River: The Ben Sandifer Story

*Ben Sandifer is a native Dallasite, 6th generation Texan, accountant, volunteer water quality tester for the Texas Stream Team at Big Spring in the Great Trinity Forest, and author of the Dallas Trinity Trails Blog*

Link to Dallas Trinity Trails Blogspot: <http://dallas-trinitytrails.blogspot.com/>



Ben Sandifer

What is your connection to the Trinity River? I began exploring the Trinity about ten years ago. From my office in Downtown Dallas, I have an unrestricted view of the Trinity River, the levees, and an area called the Great Trinity Forest beyond. At the time, I was finishing up my volunteer tenure as trail steward for the LB Houston mountain bike trail on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. I was familiar with the area around the very popular trail there and had an itch to venture forth into some uncharted territory.

Over the ensuing years, I became more and more familiar with the river. I will admit that as an accountant, I lack the scientific background to make heads or tails of what I often see. So during those years, I built up relationships with those who are experts in natural sciences, the river, archeology, and the like. My brief mountain bike forays to escape the congested weekend trail traffic eventually morphed into some kind of salon in the wild with noted experts and authors keeping me company. Lots of fun and a real learning experience.

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

I think of the people who call the river home. It would be easy to see the river as a vast river wild scape. There is a human element to it that so few know about. I had no idea that the Trinity had a soul to it. It's a deep rich history that runs through many generations of families who call the Trinity

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home. From the descendants of the first Hispanic families in West Dallas, the descendants of Freedmen in Joppa, or the descendants of pioneers on Pemberton Hill; they have all given me a really unique perspective on a River I never really knew. Their family trees all look so vastly different yet rooted to the same foundation; that is the Trinity. Outside their own neighborhoods, their family names have been forgotten by most. Their family legacies reside in the place; names their forefathers gave the places on the river. Place names like Miller, Pemberton, and Overton. I hope that we as contemporary Dallasites can contribute to the next page of the history to be written here.

In your experience, what are people's reactions to the Trinity River?

The rare ether of a sunrise or sunset on the Trinity is one that cannot be replicated in other parts of Texas. It's a real kick to take friends down on the river before dawn and have them watch and listen to the river coming alive to a new day. So few have heard and seen the mysterious calls of owls, been up close and personal with a tree frog or encountered a river otter. The Trinity has a vast collection of animals like that not seen together in the rest of Texas.

Tucked away in the obscure and forgotten corners of the river bottom are unique ecosystems to a long ago time. The Texas Buckeye Grove along the riverbank in William Blair Park, the lost palmetto palms near the mouth of White Rock Creek, and the vast treed bottom of Joppa Preserve serve as touchstone places. A visit to anyone of them is quick to change perspectives one might have on the river.

It's an amazing place where every season of the year offers something new. There is something for everyone along the river to be appreciated and enjoyed.

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

Over the last decade, I have seen the Trinity River Corridor turn from a fractured set of City parks and Corps of Engineers lands into a viable recreation area. Areas that were once weed-filled fields turned into wetland habitats. I have watched the construction of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge and old gravel pits turned into fishing holes and picnic grounds frequented by families on weekends.

The increasing diversity of wildlife is incredible. Over the last several years, larger numbers of migrating birds are visiting the Trinity. This summer saw the first recorded visits of the endangered Whoop-

ing Cranes to both the Elm Fork and East Fork. There are also increasing numbers of birds from South America that visit in late summer. Species of note include the Wood Stork, White Faced Ibis, and Roseate Spoonbill. The Wood Stork is listed as an endangered species due to habitat loss along the Florida Coast. Along the Trinity, these birds can flock into the hundreds.

I hope that the new recreational projects like the Trinity Forest Golf Course take into account the vital habitat that the Trinity River provides in this area for migrating birds. The success of the restoration of these species relies heavily on niche ecosystems like the wetlands on the river.

What have you learned about the Trinity River?

There are a good many places on the Trinity where no man alive has ever stepped foot. At some point in generations past, the area was left alone, left to be forgotten like an old box of baseball cards in an attic. Many of those places never hit the pages of a history book and sit idle waiting to be rediscovered again. Part of the fun is learning about places that time forgot. Finding things no one knows about. Digging into the vast reaches of history left here to rust or to be covered by a flood.

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

The Trinity River is as vast and a grand Texas river as any other. For tens of centuries, man has called the Trinity River home. Vast Native American campsites and villages dot the banks here as testament to the bounty that the river once provided Dallas' first residents. Today that vast ecological resource that supplied those first Dallasites is making a comeback in a BIG way.

I want people to understand that despite outward appearances, the Trinity River is a very fragile place. Balancing progress towards completion of the Trinity River Projects needs to be seen through a prism of protecting the vital ecosystem that already exists.

During certain times of the year, wildlife from as far away as the Arctic Circle to the north and the vast Amazon rainforests to the south, call the Trinity River inside Loop 12 home. The Dallas area is a peculiar crossroads for animals where the sea breeze fronts of the Gulf of Mexico can encounter a blue northern front. That mix of weather allows for both the deep southern drawl of a swamp to exist just a mile away from a cedar braked Austin Chalk escarpment typical of the Hill Country. There is no other place like it and it continues to amaze me that all of what I have described sits in the middle of four million people.

# Tips & Drops

## Upcoming Events

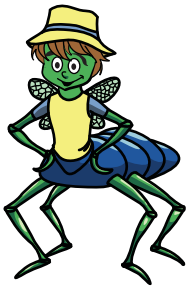
### September

- 2 Labor Day / Cesar E. Chavez Day City Holiday (**offices closed**)
- 7 Chief on the Beat Community Fair Samuell Grand Recreation Center [http://www.dallaspolice.net/news/chief\\_on\\_the\\_beat.html](http://www.dallaspolice.net/news/chief_on_the_beat.html)
- 7-8 Texas Home & Garden Show Dallas Market Hall <http://www.texashomeandgarden.com/>
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 11-14 American Society of Civil Engineers Construction Institute Summit Dallas Omni Hotel <http://www.asce.org/Default.aspx>
- 21 FREE Water-Wise Landscaping Seminars Mountain View College Performance Hall <http://www.savedallaswater.com/wwsl/>  
  
Chief on the Beat Community Fair Thomas Jefferson High School [http://www.dallaspolice.net/news/chief\\_on\\_the\\_beat.html](http://www.dallaspolice.net/news/chief_on_the_beat.html)

### October

- 1 National Night Out Block parties held in various neighborhoods throughout the City For more details, contact your neighborhood association or visit <http://www.dallascityhall.com/>
- 24 2nd Annual Meeting of the Monitors TX Stream Team Volunteer Monitor's Meeting Center for Community Cooperation <http://www.dallascityhall.com/>





# ASK ME, TRINITY TRUDY

**Q: I own a mobile power wash business. How should I dispose of the wastewater after each cleaning?**

**A:** Wastewater from power washing and surface cleaning activities is a **prohibited discharge** into the stormwater drainage system.

The wastewater can potentially contain harmful stormwater pollutants. **Proper clean-up is crucial!**

It is a violation of Dallas City Code to allow the wastewater to enter the curb, street, or storm drain inlet.

Avoid violating city, state, and federal stormwater regulations by preventing wastewater from entering the stormwater drainage system and discharging in to our local lakes, rivers, and creeks.

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

- Vacuum up wastewater
- Berm the wastewater and allow to evaporate
- Obtain Wastewater Discharge Permit to discharge wastewater in to the sanitary sewer system

To learn more about Wastewater Discharge Permit requirements, visit [http://www.dallascityhall.com/dwu/Pretreatment/discharge\\_permit.html](http://www.dallascityhall.com/dwu/Pretreatment/discharge_permit.html).

For more information about the Dallas City Codes, visit <http://www.dallascityhall.com/html/codes.html>.

For more information about the City of Dallas Stormwater Management, visit [www.wheredoesitgo.com](http://www.wheredoesitgo.com) or contact us at 214-948-4022.

**Report stormwater violators to 311!**



*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."*

## JUST FOR KIDS . . . BIG and small

# RIDDLE ME THIS

Can you figure the answer?

What can **RUN,**  **BUT NEVER WALKS ?**

What has a **MOUTH,**  **BUT NEVER TALKS ?**

What has a **BED,**  **BUT NEVER SLEEPS ?**

What has a **HEAD,**  **BUT NEVER WEEPS ?**

# Volunteer Spotlight



Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The Casa View Oaks Neighborhood Watch (CVONW) is a group that understands what Margaret Mead meant.

The CVONW is a group of concerned residents who actively seek to educate and involve residents in crime prevention and community awareness. CVONW enthusiastically partners with local organizations that promote awareness and safety in their neighborhood.

Recently two members of the CVONW, Ms. Betty Rice and Ms. Jerri Shevlin, contacted Stormwater Management about marking all of the storm drain inlets in their neighborhood watch area with a permanent placard that reminds neighbors that stormwater is **NOT** treated and that storm drains are **NOT** trash cans.

Ms. Rice and Ms. Shevlin worked together to mark over **53** storm drain inlets during their morning walks through their neighborhood. Their dedicated efforts help to get the stormwater pollution prevention message out into the community.



Stormwater Management extends a big **THANK YOU** to Ms. Rice and Ms. Shevlin of the Casa View Oaks Neighborhood Association for their participation in spreading the stormwater pollution prevention message.

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

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).



Stormwater Management has a new member of the Outreach Education team: **THE SPLASH MOBILE!**

The Splash Mobile was once a drab cargo van lacking luster and character. Now it is packed full of color and fun. It also proudly wears the stormwater pollution prevention message:

**"Whatever you throw will go with the flow, so keep it clean!"**

The message reminds us all that stormwater is **NOT** treated or cleaned before it discharges into our local lakes, rivers, and creeks.

Be on the lookout for the Splash Mobile driving around the City, in your neighborhood, and at local events.

**City of Dallas Stormwater Management  
Second Annual  
Meeting of the Monitors**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2013**  
**6pm to 7:30pm**  
**Center for Community Cooperation  
Oak Corner Room**  
**2900 Live Oak, Dallas, 75204**  
For more information, contact us at 214-948-4022 or [stormwater@dallascityhall.com](mailto:stormwater@dallascityhall.com)

## Stormwater Outreach Leadership

**Elizabeth "Liz" Fernandez, P.E.**  
Director  
Trinity Watershed Management

**Sarah Standifer**  
Assistant Director  
Trinity Watershed Management

**Susan Alvarez, P.E., CFM**  
Senior Program Manager

**Sonya Batts**  
Outreach Program Coordinator

## 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)

