

4. Use fertilizer properly!

Over 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns every year. My friend Jack didn't use any fertilizer for his beanstalk, and look how that turned out!

5. Recycle used oil by taking it to a designated drop-off

or recycle center. Four quarts of oil can form an eight-acre slick and contaminate a million gallons of drinking water. Basically, if you "dump it" down the drain, "you drink it," or "si lo tira, se lo toma," as they would say in the old neighborhood.

The things that we do everyday can help protect our environment. If we do the right things, we can make Central Oklahoma an ideal storybook setting.

There are more things I can share with you, but I've got to go save the Princess...

Visit www.acogok.org for more information

**A clean water supply
in Central Oklahoma is
not a fairy tale!**

**Wave your wand to help
keep our water clean!**



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**Once upon
a time**



association of central oklahoma governments



After a dry spell, a hard rain came down in Central Oklahoma, and

the water cleaned the streets

and made the flowers and the grass grow. Children played in mud puddles, and the lakes and ponds swelled with the rushing water.

The end? Not exactly.

I'm the Stormwater Fairy, but the story I'm telling is no fairy tale.

Every time it rains in Central Oklahoma, the water cleans the streets and the grass and the flowers grow. It's nice isn't it?

But, where does all the dirty water go?

It does go somewhere! Runoff from rain and melting snow flows over impervious surfaces and collects dirt, debris, chemicals and pollutants, washing them into the storm drains. It's called stormwater runoff, and stormwater discharges to my underground castle - the storm sewer system - where it eventually flows untreated into local lakes, rivers and streams. Why should you care? Because these water bodies are sources of drinking water in Central Oklahoma. It's like being handed a bushel of poison apples. And you thought Snow White had problems.

Not only does stormwater runoff cause problems for plants, fish and animals.

It also can damage wetlands, ponds and creeks. It can cause erosion and contaminate waterways. How can you make this story end happily? I'm not Pinocchio. But these things I know are true.

There is everyday magic that you can practice:

1. Wash your cars and trucks at a commercial car wash -

not in the driveway. Washing at home leads to detergent and chemical water runoff that goes straight into storm drains.

2. Check your carriage for oil and fluid leaks.

Every time it rains, streets overflow with petroleum and chemical build-up.

3. Pick up after your pets.

Pet waste is one of the major sources of bacteria in urban and regional water supplies.

