



## ELLIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL/PLANNING & ZONING QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1/QUARTER 2 (APR-JUN)

### IMPORTANT DATES IN QTR 1:

#### Zoning Meetings QTR 1:

Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Other Dates:

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Tax Day

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Offices Closed-  
Good Friday

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Mother's Day

**May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Offices Closed-  
Memorial Day

**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Summer Begins

### NEW AND IMPROVED!

Welcome to the new Quarterly Newsletter from the Ellis County Environmental/Planning & Zoning Office! The new layout will provide the same great information in a more in-depth manner and more spread out as to not overload your inbox.

#### What will be covered in the new Newsletters?

We will still cover everything that goes on with private wastewater systems, private water wells, zoning, floodplain, HHW, etc. and get the information that is pertinent to you.

They will go out in Quarters throughout the year:

Qtr 1: Jan-Mar, Qtr 2: Apr-Jun, Qtr 3: Jul-Sep, Qtr 4: Oct-Dec

#### Other New Items

The newsletter isn't the only new and improved item in our office. We are also in the process of updating our Ellis County Comprehensive Plan. This plan is designed to continually look at Ellis County and determine the next logical plan of action for County Sustainability and Land Use.

Another update is to the Environmental Website. We have now added a Property Transfer section that has everything you would want to know about transferring property in Ellis County.

There is also a new email to get in contact with our office. It is [environmental@elliscounty.net](mailto:environmental@elliscounty.net). This will give you one address to type in and send to our entire office. This ensures speed of response and gets you the right person as quick as possible.

Our forms are also getting changed for ease of access while also giving as much information as possible. We are also working on digitizing the forms, so they can be filled out and emailed or downloaded to save time and money on mailing physical copies.

Our office is constantly working to make your lives easier and get you what you need faster than before!





## WET YEARS & SEPTIC SYSTEMS

This past year, we have had an incredible amount of moisture in all forms in our area. How does this affect our systems? What can you do to help your system from failing? In this newsletter, we will briefly tackle these items.

## HOW CONVENTIONAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS WORK

The most common and traditional septic systems consist of a septic tank that gravity flows to a soil adsorption field for final treatment and dispersal. The septic tank allows particulate matter to settle to the bottom of the tank so that large solids do not plug the drain field. An effluent filter placed in the outlet of the septic tank is used to screen suspended solids out of the effluent. Final treatment and dispersal of the wastewater takes place in the soil absorption field. The soil absorption field provides final treatment and dispersal of the wastewater. To treat wastewater, this system relies heavily on the soil, where microorganisms help remove the organic matter, solids, and nutrients left in the water. As effluent continually flows into the soil, the microbes eating the components of the wastewater form a biological mat. The mat slows the water's movement through the soil and helps keep the area below the mat from becoming saturated. The water must travel into unsaturated soil so that microbes there and in the mat can feed on the waste and nutrients in the effluent. The grass covering the soil absorption system also uses the nutrients and water to grow

## Contact Us

### Ellis County Environmental/Planning&Zoning

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785-628-9449  
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Ellis County  
Environmental/Planning & Zoning  
Fees 2019

Water Well Permit- \$60.00

Wastewater Permit- \$60.00

Water Screen  
Nitrate/Bacteria- \$20.00  
Nitrate/Bacteria/RO-\$25.00

Property Transfer Evaluations  
Water Well- \$50.00  
Wastewater- \$50.00  
Both- \$75.00

\*please contact office for any fees that may occur

with living on their own system. It takes a lot of care and maintenance to assure your septic system stays functioning as intended.

Don't wash all your laundry in one day, space it out to not overload the system. Take shorter showers and conserve water. Clean out the effluent filter in the tank. Check the tank for issues and get it pumped by a licensed septage hauler when necessary.

We are here to help. If you have any questions, please feel free to give our office a call and we will do our best to help you along the way.

## WHAT ADDING EXTRA WATER BOTH IN THE SYSTEM AND FROM ABOVE CAN DO

Adding too much water in the system can overload the trenches and cause them to over-saturate, preventing them from dispersing and evaporating properly and plugging up the field. In addition to this, heavy rain could pose an issue. In the year we have seen, it could take quite a while for the soil to dry up properly for the system to work as intended. If the lateral field was leveled off after installation, instead of keeping the trenches mounded allowing for natural settling of the soil, it could cause "ponding" to occur on the top of your lateral lines and introduce even more water to the system causing it to overload and potentially fail.

## MAINTENANCE

We see a lot of first time private septic system users who are not familiar with living on their own system. It takes a lot of care and maintenance to assure your septic system stays functioning as intended.