

Protect Streams on Land

Earth Day 2014 and Everyday



www.stormwaterpa.org/rainbarrel



www.stormwaterpa.org/raingarden

Learn about capturing and controlling rainwater using rain gardens and rain barrels, and see what others are doing on land to protect water quality in our streams, go to StormwaterPA.org



Keeping streams and drinking water healthy starts stream-side and street-side

Everyone can play a part in keeping our water clean. Residents, businesses, and government share the role and responsibility of protecting water resources and ensuring we all have clean and plentiful water supplies now, and in years to come. How?

- **Protect Plants**, and plant native plants with deep and wide root systems, on our parks and properties, especially along our creeks and rivers. Deep-rooted and well-adapted trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials growing along stream banks and in floodplains buffer the harmful, even devastating, impacts storm water runoff can have on stream health and drinking water supplies. Plants help prevent unwanted erosion keep our streams clean.
- **Treat Toxics Tenderly** by carefully handling, storing, and disposing of products containing toxic chemicals to prevent water pollution. When pesticides and herbicides, oil and grease, detergents and

degreasers, batteries, fuels, and lubricants leak onto pavement, or come in contact with rain and storm runoff, toxic pollutants migrate into streets, storm drains and streams and pollute water supplies. Be conscientious and conservation-minded when using toxic products.

- **Retain the Rain** using rain barrels, rain gardens and good grading and planting practices. These practices help capture and slow the flow of storm water from yards, rooftops, and roads during rain storms. Fast moving and poorly controlled storm water runoff flowing across impervious, paved surfaces on our properties and roads enroute to the river during storms contributes to dangerous flash flooding, unwanted stormwater pollution, and erosion of land and stream banks. When storm water naturally soaks into the ground near where it falls, it recharges groundwater, sustains streams in dry summer months, irrigates our trees and woodlands, filters water pollutants, prevents flooding, and protects neighbors living down stream.

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