

# The Greenville Storm

A newsletter for Greenville residents dedicated to reducing storm water impacts on Greenville Creek

## Help Prevent Mosquitoes from Taking Over Your Yard this Summer

Did you know that you can help prevent mosquitoes in your yard with regular lawn care?

Since mosquitoes need water that has been standing for a week or longer to breed, you can help prevent the mosquito population from booming. Emptying plant saucers, regularly dumping and refilling your bird baths and using rain barrels to capture roof runoff are all ways to reduce breeding grounds for these pests. Elimination of sources of stagnant water is key to keeping the population in check.



## Calendar of Events

APR 28	<b>Don't Waste Your Garden Workshop</b> 6:30– 8:00pm
MAY 3	<b>Tri-County pond Clinic</b> 6:00-8:30pm
May 6	<b>First Friday: Upper Floor Tour</b> 6:00-9:00pm
May 14	<b>Downtown Planting Day</b> 8:00-11:00am
June 3	<b>Lunch on the Lawn @ GPL</b> 11:30am-1:00pm
June 3	<b>First Fridays: Live Music &amp; Volunteer Fair</b> 6:30-9:00pm
SATURDAYS	<b>Downtown Greenville Farmers Market</b> 9:00am-1:00pm beginning June 4
June 17	<b>Educational Canoe Float</b> 8:30am



Municipal Building  
100 Public Square  
Greenville, OH 45331



# The Greenville Storm

This newsletter was developed to inform residents of Greenville about storm water related issues and provide educational information to reduce the impacts of storm water to the Greenville Creek. We hope that this newsletter provides you with helpful information on saving money while protecting the local environment at the same time.

## Backyard Conservation: Lawn Care Tips

How we care for our lawns can either benefit or harm the environment around us. There are several lawn care practices that anyone can do to help protect the environment.

- Mow High:** Using the highest setting on the mower (3-4") allows the grass to establish a deeper root system. This deeper root system also absorbs water better and controls erosion from the property. Taller grasses also block weeds, reduce the temperature of the soil surface and are more drought-tolerant.
- Recycle clippings & leaves:** Keeping grass clippings in the yard returns nutrients and organic matter back to your lawn. Returning your grass clippings to your yard also reduces landfill space and saves time to rake and bag them.
- Conserve Water:** Dense grasses with deeper roots are better able to absorb rainfall and prevent lateral flow of runoff. This reduces the amount of rainfall runoff to storm sewer systems. Thin grass promotes runoff and sedimentation, and shallower roots are unable to filter and retain water.
- Provide nutrition:** Grass needs nutrients to stay healthy. Sources of nutrients include: grass clippings, mulched leaves, compost, and lawn fertilizer. For mature lawns, only use phosphorus-free fertilizer unless a soil test is done to determine a need. The best time to fertilize your lawn is when it is actively growing, in the spring or fall months. Keep all nutrients from being washed into the storm sewer system by sweeping grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizer back into the yard.

## Help Protect Our Streams & Rivers from Your Backyard!

Did you know that the water that flows into storm drains along our streets and curbs flows directly into our streams and rivers without treatment? Backyard conservation practices not only improve the quality of our streams but can also reduce the potential for flooding. Here are some tips to minimize runoff from your property:

- Install rain barrels to capture roof runoff
- Grow a rain garden with water-tolerant plants to filter runoff
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash
- If washing your car at home, do it in a grassy area with bio-degradable, phosphorus-free soap
- Use a drop pan to catch leaks from your car until you can get them fixed
- Bury pet waste, flush it or bag it and dispose of it in the garbage to eliminate the source of bacterial contamination



# All About Pollinators!

## What is a pollinator?

Since plants cannot move, they use the wind, water and animals to vector pollen between flowers. Animal vectors are called pollinators. The best pollinators deposit enough pollen for fertilization and like to visit the same type of plant over and over again. Pollinators can include bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies, moths, flies, hummingbirds & bats.

## Why are pollinators important?

75% of the world's flowering plants and approximately 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators! Pollinators play a key role in the production of many foods in the home garden.

## Why are some pollinator species in trouble?

Pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites and environmental contaminants all play a role in a decrease in the number of pollinators.

## How can I help pollinators in my garden & yard?

- **Grow more flowers**— plant different flower shapes, sizes and colors to attract a variety of pollinators. Group plants together in sunny locations to help pollinators expend less energy in their search for plants.
- **Bloom through the Season**— Plant a diversity of flowers so that you will have blooms from spring through fall. Queen bumble bees, mourning cloak butterflies and blue orchard bees are mainly active during the spring. Monarch butter-

flies, worker bumble bees and worker honeybees are active from spring into the cooler days of fall.

- **Plant caterpillar host plants**— Immature caterpillar stages require specific plant species to complete development. Including butterfly host plants in your yard will attract egg-laying adult butterflies.
- **Vegetable Garden Pollinators**— Flowers planted in and near vegetable gardens and fruit planting help bring pollinators and other beneficial insects into the garden. Annuals, perennials and herbs provide important food sources for insect pollinators.
- **Plant Natives**— locally native plants attract native pollinators. Native plants offer nectar, pollen and other nutrients in quantities that native pollinators need.
- **Provide Nesting Sites**— brush piles, dead standing trees and clumping grasses all provide important nesting and overwintering habitat for bees and butterflies.
- **Provide a water source**— A water source in the garden, such as a shallow bowl or birdbath, can help a thirsty pollinator, especially during the summer. A few sticks placed in the bowl will provide a place for bees and other insects to land and perch, thus preventing insect drowning.
- **Limit pesticide use**— Pesticides can have negative effects on bees and other insects, killing them or affecting their behavior. Use an integrated pest management with multiple strategies to reduce pest damage.

Information gathered from OSU Extension Fact Sheet ENT-47-14

# Key Plants for Pollinators

- **Trees:** maple, crabapple, linden, serviceberry
- **Shrubs:** ninebark, pussy willow, sumac, viburnum
- **Perennials:** aster, hyssop, milkweed, purple coneflower
- **Annuals:** cosmos, marigold, sunflower, zinnia
- **Herbs:** basil, borage, catmint, lavender, oregano



# Rain Barrels: A Great Way to Save Water

Rain barrels are a great way to conserve groundwater and potentially reduce your water bill. A rain barrel is a rain water collection system that stores rooftop runoff to be used later for activities such as lawn and garden watering, car washing and even window cleaning. Keep in mind that you should never drink water from a rain barrel!

Some of the benefits of using rain barrels include:

- Water stored in a rain barrel can be used to water your lawn during a dry spell
- The stored rainwater is beneficial for plants because it is free from chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals
- The rainwater captured in a rain barrel reduces the amount of runoff from a property. This runoff can carry fertilizers and pesticides to local streams and rivers.
- Using rainwater to water your garden is natural and healthy

Darke SWCD sells 55-gallon rain barrels with DIY Rain Barrel Diverter Kits for \$40.00. Contact the office at 548-1752 if interested in purchasing a rain barrel (or 2!) to use at your home.



# What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a landscape feature that limits the negative effects of rainfall runoff in urban areas. Rain gardens capture water runoff and the water is used to nurture plants and recharge the soil rather than allowing it to flow directly into the storm sewer.

Benefits of planting a rain garden include:

- Allows for groundwater recharge
- Keeps rainwater from overloading a storm sewer system
- Provides a home to unique landscape plants
- Provides habitat for desirable wildlife, including pollinators
- They improve storm water quality as it is infiltrated and redistributed through the soils.

## What is a Rain Garden?

Nature's Water Filter: Rain gardens are shallow landscaped depressions that capture, clean and absorb stormwater runoff from roofs, parking lots and roads.

