



# 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 Tip: Quench Your Yard's Thirst

As temperatures rise in the summer, so does our outdoor water use. As much as 50% of the water that we use outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems. Watering wisely outside the home promotes healthier lawns and landscapes. You don't have to go to extremes to save water, here are some helpful tips:

### Water Your Lawn Early

Watering your lawn early in the morning or late evening minimizes evaporation and waste.



### Skip A Day

Lawns only need watering every 3 to 5 days in the summer.



### Leave Grass Long

Raising your lawnmower blade to 3 to 3.5 inches encourages grass roots to grow deeper and grass blades to hold more moisture. Longer grass means less evaporation and less weeds.



### Harvest Rainwater

Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from gutters to use for gardens and landscapes. 1 inch of rain yields 62 gallons per 100 square foot of roof space.



### Save Time & Water

Use an automatic timer on your sprinkler or set a kitchen timer to remind you to turn off the water. A sprinkler can waste as much as 600 gallons of water in just one hour.



### Tune Up Your System

Inspect irrigation systems and fix leaks and broken or clogged sprinkler heads. Make sure you are watering the yard and not the street or driveway.



Source: [spokanecity.org](http://spokanecity.org)



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# Summer Water Conservation Tips

## Build Healthy Soils

Healthy soil holds water like a sponge, slowly releasing moisture when lawns and plants need it most. Here are some ideas to help you build healthy soils in your yard.

- Avoid using man-made fertilizers and pesticides. They can harm worms and other beneficial organisms found in healthy soil.
- Healthy soil will reduce runoff, and less runoff means less pollution and sediment in our streams and rivers.
- Adding soil amendments like compost or mulch cools and feeds the soil, improves water holding capacity, encourages deeper root growth and reduces the need for water and fertilizers.



## Use Water Efficiently

- Wash your car on the lawn or take it to a car wash that recycles and reuses wash water
- Use a bucket of soapy water and a shut-off spray nozzle on the end of your hose when you wash your car
- Sweep your driveway and patio instead of spray-



- ing them with water
- Check for undetected leaks in your pool throughout the summer
- Cover the pool when you are not using it to prevent evaporation
- Fix all dripping hose bibs



## Grow Native Plants in Landscaping

Plant native plants that have adapted to our weather and soils. This means that once they are established after a year or two, there is no need to water them!

Some native species include:

- Common milkweed
- Heart-leaved Aster
- New England Aster
- Wild Bergamot
- Foxglove Beardtongue
- Yellow Coneflower
- Royal Catchfly
- Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- Blazing Star
- Prairie Dropseed
- Canada Wild Rye
- Ohio Goldenrod
- Blue Mist Flower



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# Summer Water Conservation Tips

## Irrigation Tips

- Consider drip irrigation– this reduces evaporation and applies water directly to the roots.
- Prevent runoff by splitting watering times into two or more applications with breaks between. This will promote deeper root growth and foster a healthy landscape that is more resistant to dry weather.
- Water early in the morning when the air is cool and calm and evaporation is at a minimum. Watering in the evening is second best.
- Check your system each spring. Automatic irrigation systems often come on during the early morning hours, leaks and other problems can go unnoticed for long periods of time.
- Take time to check your system and provide periodic checks throughout the summer to ensure the system is operating properly and efficiently.
- Replace your old controller with a weather based controller or adjust your current controller to the weather throughout the summer so you are not depriving your plants or watering unnecessarily.
- Correctly program your irrigation controller.



## Mulching

Mulch moderates soil temperatures, keeping the ground temperature more stable. It also helps prevent weeds, adds nutrients as it breaks down, and retains moisture on dry summer days.

- Organic mulch (barks, compost) is generally better than inorganic mulch (rock)
- Organic mulch breaks down into beneficial nutrients and also doesn't heat up as much with the sun.



## Lawn Care Ideas

- A healthy lawn needs less water, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Aerate lawns in the early summer to allow water and air to reach the roots.
- Mow high to shade roots, keep soil cool and retain soil moisture.
- Mulch grass clippings to naturally green up your lawn
- Water one inch per week, unless it's really how.
- Fertilize organically to protect kids, pets and the environment.
- Skip the weed and feed products. Many of these can damage soil as well as pollute our waterways.



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

## Natural Weed Killer Recipe

1 gallon white vinegar

1 cup salt

1 tablespoon liquid dish soap

Combine ingredients in a spray bottle and treat weeds at the sunniest time of day for the best results.

This solution does not penetrate the root system, so multiple treatments will probably be necessary to keep the weeds at bay. Also, sunshine makes a big difference. Keep a spray bottle of this homemade solution to combat weeds that may pop up along walkways, fences or house foundation. Be careful not to spray plants that you want to keep!



## Calendar of Events

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>May 19</b>         | <b>Downtown Planting Day</b><br>8:00-11:00am                                |
| <b>June 1</b>         | <b>First Fridays: Live Music &amp; Volunteer Fair</b><br>6:00-9:00pm        |
| <b>SATURDAYS</b>      | <b>Downtown Greenville Farmers Market</b><br>9:00am-1:00pm beginning June 2 |
| <b>June 8th</b>       | <b>Educational Canoe Float</b><br>8:30am                                    |
| <b>June 22nd</b>      | <b>Pop-Up Party</b><br>6:00-11:00pm   |
| <b>July 6th</b>       | <b>First Fridays: Memories on Main</b><br>6:00-9:00pm                       |
| <b>July 26th-28th</b> | <b>Annie Oakley Sidewalk Sales</b>  |



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