

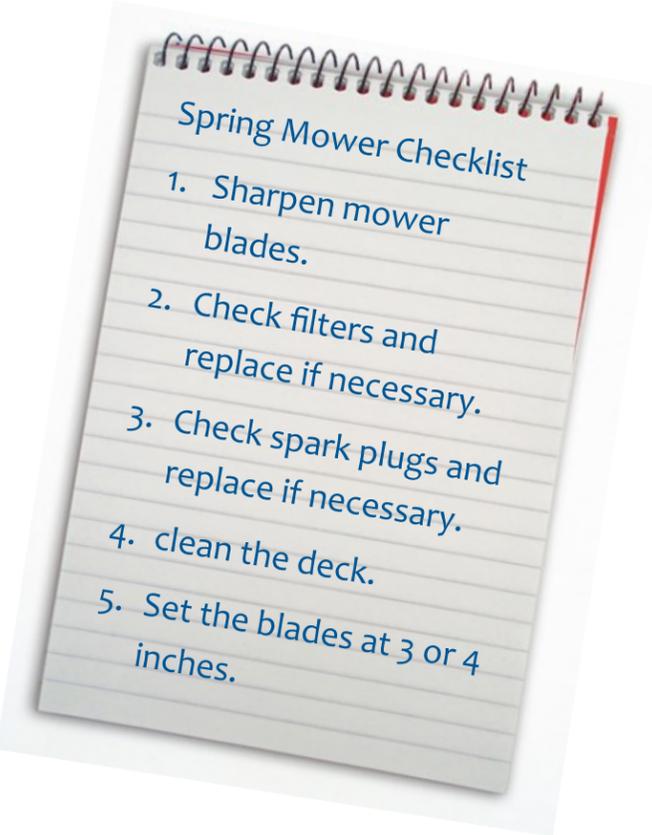
## Prepare Your Lawn & Mower for the Season



- It is recommended to soil test every three (3) years in the spring to determine what nutrients need to be added to your soil for

your lawn to thrive. Testing saves money, time and prevents the over-application of nutrients. Darke SWCD is your stop for soil testing this spring. For only \$15 you can have your lawn tested. See more information on our website [www.darkeswcd.com](http://www.darkeswcd.com).

- Remove compacted grass and snow mold caused by excess moisture.
- Start a compost pile with the first grass clippings of the season. For the remainder of the season, leave grass clippings on the lawn to use as natural fertilizer.



## Upcoming Events

<i>Conservation Day Camp Registration Opens</i>	<i>March 12</i>
<i>Tree Orders &amp; Payment Due</i>	<i>March 19</i>
<i>Poster Contest Submission Deadline</i>	<i>March 26</i>
<i>Tree Pickup</i> <i>Darke SWCD Office</i>	<i>April 7 &amp; 8</i>
<i>Spring Soil Sampling</i>	<i>April 16</i>
<i>Scholarship Applications Due</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Conservation Stations: Hands-on Fun</i> <i>Bish Discovery Center</i>	<i>April 24</i>
<i>Fish Fingerling Orders Due</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>Fish Fingerling Sale Pick-up</i>	<i>May 21</i>
<i>Darke County Conservation Day Camp</i>	<i>June 9-10</i>

# The Greenville Storm

Spring 2021

## It's Almost Time for Spring Cleaning

Spring rains funnel stormwater runoff down paved surfaces and into storm sewers and end up in our waterways.



clippings away from catch basins, drainage ditches and other waterways.

Try some of these simple tips to help protect our streams and rivers this spring:

- Use environmentally friendly, phosphorus-free, biodegradable cleaning products outside.
- DO NOT dump household wastes (paint, cleaning products, motor oil, antifreeze, etc...) into catch basins, drainage ditches or other waterways. Remember, only rain down the drain!
- Dispose of hazardous wastes at household hazardous waste recycling day... usually held each October.
- Always read and follow label directions when using lawn care products and disposing of their containers.
- Do not apply lawn care products to frozen ground, wait until the grass starts growing.
- Sweep up and reuse any lawn care products that fall on paved surfaces.
- Minimize the use of fertilizers near catch basins, drainage ditches or other waterways.
- Soil test to determine the right amount of lawn care products that your lawn needs.
- Remove pet waste and trash from streets, sidewalks and driveways and place into the garbage.
- Clean gutters regularly. Compost leaves or bag them for collection with other yard waste.
- Direct water from your downspouts away from your house and paved surfaces and onto your lawn or into a rain barrel.
- Remove debris, such as trash, leaves and grass



This newsletter is for residents of the city of Greenville dedicated to reducing storm water impacts on Greenville Creek.





## Spring Cleaning Cont'd

- Do not drain chemically treated swimming pools into catch basins, drainage ditches or other waterways. Pool water should be held until chlorine levels are acceptable enough to discharge into catch basin.
- Use pesticides sparingly, more is not better.
- Wash your car on the lawn using phosphorus-free detergent or take your car to the car wash where they recycle the wash water.

## Water-Efficient Landscaping

Water is our most precious natural resource. Without it, life can't exist. A typical household uses about 260 gallons of water per day. But in summer months, the amount of water used outdoors by a household can exceed the amount used for all other purposes for the entire year. Gardening and lawn care account for the majority of this seasonal increase, but other outdoor activities, such as washing cars and filling swimming pools also contribute.

### What is Water-Efficient Landscaping?

Eye-catching gardens and landscapes that save water, prevent pollution and protect the environment are, in fact, easily achieved by employing water-efficient landscaping.

### Fundamentals of Water-wise Landscaping

- Proper planning and design – Developing a landscape plan is the first and most important step in creating a water-efficient landscape, and should take into account regional climate, topography, existing vegetation, intended use of the property and the grouping of plants by their water needs.
- Soil analysis and improvement - Test your soil prior to beginning any landscaping improvements.
- Appropriate plant selection – Your landscape design should take into account our climate as well as soil conditions. Preserve as many existing trees and shrubs as possible. Choose plants native to our region.
- Practical turf areas – How and where turf is placed in the landscape can significantly reduce the amount of irrigation water needed to support the landscape



- Efficient irrigation – Efficient irrigation is a very important part of using water efficiently outdoors and applies in any landscaping
- Use of mulches – Mulches aid in greater water retention by minimizing evaporation, reducing weed growth, moderating soil temperatures and preventing erosion. In addition, organic mulches also improve the condition of your soil as they decompose

- Appropriate maintenance – Water and fertilize plants only as needed. Cut turf grass only when it reached a height of 2 to 3 inches. Avoid pruning plants and giving them high nitrogen fertilizers during dry periods

### Why use Water-efficient Landscaping?

Proper landscaping techniques not only create beautiful landscapes, but also benefit the environment and save water. In addition, attractive, water-efficient, low-maintenance landscapes can increase property values. Water-efficient landscaping offers many economic and environmental benefits, including:

- Lower water bills from reduced water consumption;
- Conservation of natural resources and preservation of habitat for plant and wildlife such as fish and waterfowl;
- Decreased energy use (and air pollution associated with its generation) because less pumping and treatment of water is required;
- Reduced home and office heating and cooling cost through the careful placement of trees and plants;
- Reduced runoff of stormwater and irrigation water that carries top soils, fertilizers and pesticides into lakes, rivers and streams;
- Fewer yard trimming to be managed or land filled;
- Reduced landscaping labor and maintenance costs;
- Extended life for water resources infrastructure (e.g. reservoirs, treatment plants, groundwater aquifers), thus reduced taxpayer costs.

### Water-efficient Landscape Irrigation Methods

With common watering practices, a large portion of the water applied to lawns and gardens is not absorbed by the plants. The goal of efficient irrigation is to apply only as much water as is needed to keep your plants healthy. To promote the strong root growth that supports a plant during drought, water deeply and only when the plant needs water. Irrigation with consideration to the type of soil, the condition of your plants, the season and weather conditions – rather than on a fixed watering schedule - significantly increases your watering efficiency. When planning your garden, group plants according to their watering needs. Manual watering with a hand-held hose tends to be the most water efficient method of irrigation. Soaker hoses can also be very efficient when used correctly. If you use an automatic system, consider installing a rain sensor to prevent the system from turning on during or immediately after a rain. Soil moisture sensors will allow your system to turn on only if the soil moisture drops below a certain level.



Stay up to date with Darke SWCD at [www.darkeswcd.com](http://www.darkeswcd.com)

Like us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter.



[www.facebook.com/DarkeSWCD](http://www.facebook.com/DarkeSWCD)



[www.twitter.com/DarkeSWCD](http://www.twitter.com/DarkeSWCD)