



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.



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.



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.



Skip A Day

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



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.



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

Lawn Care Ideas to Maintain a Healthy, Environmentally Friendly Yard

- 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 hot.
- 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.



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



spraying 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



Wild Bergamot

- Foxglove Beardtongue
- Yellow Coneflower
- Royal Catchfly
- Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- Blazing Star
- Prairie Dropseed
- Canada Wild Rye
- Ohio Goldenrod
- Blue Mist Flower



Lanceleaf Coreopsis

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 your not depriving your plants or watering unnecessarily.
- Correctly program your irrigation controller.

Summer Water Conservation Tips

Mulching

Mulching is one of the simplest and most beneficial practices you can use in the garden. Mulch is simply a protective layer of a material that is spread on top of the soil. Mulches can either be organic, such as grass clippings, straw, bark chips or similar materials, or inorganic, such as stones, brick chips and plastic. Both organic and inorganic mulches have numerous benefits.

Benefits of mulch:

- Protects the soil from erosion
- Reduces compaction from the impact of heavy rains
- Conserves moisture, reducing the need for frequent watering
- Maintains a more even soil temperature
- Prevents weed growth
- Keeps fruits and vegetables clean
- Keeps feet clean, allowing access to garden even when damp
- Provides a "finished" look to the garden

Organic mulches also improve the condition of the soil. As these mulches slowly decompose, they provide organic matter which helps keep the soil loose. This improves root growth, increases the infiltration of water, and also improves the water-holding capacity of the soil. Organic matter is a source of plant nutrients and provides an ideal environment for earthworms and other beneficial soil organisms.

While inorganic mulches have their place in certain landscapes, they lack the soil improving properties of organic mulches. Inorganic mulches, because of their permanence, may be difficult to remove if you decide to change your garden plans at a later date.

When to apply mulch?

If you are using mulches in your vegetable garden or flower garden, it is best to apply them after the soil has warmed up in the spring. Cool, wet soils tend to slow seed germination and increase the decay of seeds and seedlings. If adding additional layers of mulch to existing perennial beds, wait until the soil has warmed completely.

Additional Guidelines

- Do not apply mulch directly in contact with plants. Leave an inch or so of space next to plants to help prevent diseases flourishing from excessive humidity.
- Remove weeds before spreading mulch.

Source: nrcs.usda.gov



Soil Sampling

Did you know that the Darke SWCD office offers soil sampling in the spring & fall?

Soil sampling helps you maintain proper soil fertility, guides plant selection and allows you to perform plant problem diagnosis.

Watch for more information about fall soil sampling on our facebook page or website at www.darkeswcd.com.



Pesky rabbits a nuisance in your garden?

Here are a few tips to help deter rabbits from your vegetable garden:

- Install a rabbit proof fence— make sure to bury the fence 6-12-inches below ground so rabbits can't dig under it.
- Deter rabbits with chili powder or blood meal— sprinkle chili powder in a circle around plants or sprinkle blood meal around the perimeter of your garden. Reapply after rain or heavy watering.
- Use a homemade repellent— mix 2 tablespoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of garlic powder, and a squirt of dish detergent with 20 ounces of warm water. Shake the mixture well. Let it sit outside in the sun for a day, then put into a sprayer and apply to plant leaves. Reapply after rain or heavy watering.
- Divert rabbits away from your vegetable garden— take cabbage or lettuce that you are not going to eat and place it in a corner of your yard away from the garden.



Encourage Pest Predators & Parasites

Insects are not the enemy in the garden. In fact, they can be the key in keeping populations of pests down. By planting native plants, you attract populations of insects such as ladybugs and other carnivorous beetles, dragonflies, parasitic wasps, and praying mantises that keep the balance in the garden by other harmful plant pests. Spiders, toads, bats and even songbirds are voracious predators of pests too. Creating a diversely planted garden that attracts an array of wildlife is a much better way to control pests and keeping things in balance than spraying toxic pesticides.



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

SATURDAYS	Downtown Greenville Farmers Market 9:00am-1:00pm beginning June 2
July 24th	Owl Prowl Hike Eidson Woods Preserve 8:00-10:00pm
July 26th-28th	Annie Oakley Sidewalk Sales
July 27th-29th	Gathering at Garst
August 3rd	First Friday: Artisan Stroll 6:00-9:00pm
August 10th	Farm on Fourth 6:00-9:00pm
August 17-25	Great Darke County Fair
September 7th	First Friday: Popcorn & Prohibition
September 8th	Fall Cruise-In Car Show 2:00-9:00pm