February is the month of love - what do you love about this region? What makes this area special to you? How can you make it a cleaner and greener community? These are things we want to think about as the weather starts warming back up!

This upcoming spring is going to be one to remember. This year's Earth Day celebrates its 50th Anniversary! To celebrate Earth Day at the VAMC Earth Day Fair this year on April 16, 2020, we are partnering with Mary Kay to host a "Pink Doing Green- 3K Fun Run" where you can walk/run around campus during lunch. There are no fees, but we do kindly accept donations towards the Mary Kay Foundation and participants will receive a free t-shirt.

Mary Kay's "Pink Doing Green" campaign promises to create and maintain sustainable business practices such as, using environmentally friendly products and packaging, and are 100% powered by renewable energy.

If you are an employee interested in participating, please contact me at maryann@cleanvalley.org with your contact info and t-shirt size.

Mary Ann Brenchick, Executive Director
Best Management Practices: Residential Rain - Part 1

As winter is coming to an end, we're shifting our Best Management Practice focus, looking at ways to make a difference at home.

Why is this important? There has been a lot of rain this winter. Some of that rain may have landed on a tree, on a farm, soaking into the soil; or may have landed on impermeable surfaces such as rooftops, driveways/roads, traveling down the street into a storm drain or stream.

Precipitation in urban/suburban areas that doesn't evaporate or soak into the ground but instead runs across the land and into the nearest waterway, known as stormwater runoff. Increased development has made stormwater runoff the fastest growing source of pollution to waterways.

Fixing this problem can be simple; reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces by replacing them with permeable ones! Permeable surfaces allow water to flow through. Here are some examples of BMP's we can incorporate at home to clean up our waterways.

BMP #1: Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavers allow water to seep into the ground underneath, reducing the amount of pollutants that would otherwise be washed into streams.

Click here for more info on permeable pavers.

Benefits include:
- Reduces runoff. trap and filter sediment and pollutants
- Beautiful atheistic improvements at home
- Prevents washing of oil and gas down the street
- Reduces flooding
Best Management Practices: Residential Rain - Part 1

Here are more ways to reduce stormwater runoff at home.

**BMP #2: Rain Barrels**

Rain barrels are a great way to make both your yard and wallet greener. They collect rainwater from your roof, and store it for later use. Rain barrels reduce your monthly water bill and increase the health of your home, garden and community.

**Benefits include:**
- **Reduce** stormwater that runs into nearby drains and streams from impermeable roofs
- Lowers your **water bill**
- Plants love the **pH** of rainwater; very beneficial for the garden
- Available **source** of water for washing cars, watering gardens, etc.

**BMP #3: Rain Gardens**

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas, or "buffer strip", on either side of a stream or river that reduce runoff and erosion. As many aquatic ecosystems continue to decline due to agriculture, these buffers have become a very common conservation practice aimed to increase water quality and reducing pollution. Click [here](#) for more info.

**Benefits include:**
- Directs stormwater from impervious surfaces (roofs, roads) and **filters** it through the ground
- Intercepts stormwater before it becomes **polluted** runoff!
- Uses the rainwater as a **resource** for watering the garden
- **Aesthetically** pleasing; **pollinator** friendly

For More Information: [www.cleanvalley.org](http://www.cleanvalley.org) | 540-345-5523 | info@cleanvalley.org
OUR VALLEY COMMUNITY
Local events to support your area!

FEBRUARY 27, 2020
Health & the Environment
at Chocolatepaper

APRIL 4, 2020
Clean Valley Day
Participate in our annual spring clean-up!

APRIL 16, 2020
VAMC Earth Day Vendor Fair
"Pink Goes Green" Fun Run

APRIL 18, 2020
Earth Day
at Grandin Village

APRIL 21, 2020
Play Roanoke River Clean-Up
with Roanoke Mountain Adventures

APRIL 25, 2020
Party for the Planet
unveiling trash art sculptures
at Mill Mountain Zoo