Message from the Director

Bringing people together for education and environmental stewardship is at the heart of Clean Valley Council. Like the rest of the world, we have cancelled our upcoming plans as we grapple with the sadness and uncertainty of the times – plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Riverfest, as well as our scheduled classes.

While we have no events to look ahead to with certainty, we have the gift of each precious day. Though we can not commune with one another, I encourage those of you who are able to commune with nature. There is healing in watching the seasons change, listening to the chorus of birds, and taking time each day to be outside.

The past few months have brought tragedy and hardship on a global scale. Among the few positive changes have been a reduction in pollution, an improvement in air quality, and an appreciation of earth’s blessings. It is my hope that our community will rediscover, as I have, the simple joy of a neighborhood walk or spending a coffee break outside.

Stay safe, healthy, and eco-friendly,

Mary Ann Brenchick, Executive Director
With the approach of spring, and especially spring rain, we're continuing to discuss Best Management Practices at home to minimize stormwater runoff. In the last newsletter, we discussed why reducing runoff is important. Impermeable surfaces like concrete, asphalt, and roof shingles allow water to continue to run instead of soaking into the ground. The water from rain storms then runs through roads, yards, and farms, transporting pollutants into waterways.

We have discussed ways to reduce stormwater runoff at home: rain barrels, permeable pavement, and rain gardens. These installations can help reduce and capture the amount of rain runoff on residential property, preventing water pollution and possibly lowering water bills.

Here are some more BMPs to incorporate at home to address the issue of residential rain runoff and water pollution.

**BMP #1: Wet Holding Ponds**

Wet holding ponds capture, store, and filter stormwater. Wet holding ponds retain water in them at all times and allow water to slowly filter through it while providing habitat and nutrients for plants and wildlife.

Click [here](#) for more info on holding ponds.

**Benefits include:**
- Keep streams from being overwhelmed by more water than they can handle
- Reduce polluted water directly entering waterways
- Create habitats for aquatic life

For More Information: www.cleanvalley.org | 540-345-5523 | info@cleanvalley.org
Best Management Practices: Residential Rain - Part 2

Here are more ways to reduce stormwater runoff at home.

BMP #2: Green Roofs

A green roof is engineered to allow plants to grow on the top of a building. Green roofs can be part or all of a roof, and the types of vegetation grown on them vary widely. These installations can grow edible plants and serve as a space-saving garden, or they can have decorative or ornamental vegetation.

Some important considerations when designing and installing:
- a green roof are the waterproof base, types of vegetation, structural support, and drainage.

Benefits include:
- Plant roots absorb water and reduce runoff
- Provides a cooling effect to the surrounding air
- Buildings stay insulated, reducing energy costs

Spring Maintenance Tips

It is vital to maintain property and Best Management Practices when spring arrives, either to prepare for spring showers or to repair damage from a harsh winter, or both!
- Vacuum sweep permeable pavement surfaces to remove sediment and ensure it is as efficient as possible.
- Ensure leaves, trash, and debris are not blocking curbs or the path of water into storm drains.
- Rain barrels can crack and leak, especially after cycles of freezing and thawing. Check for cracks and leaks in the barrel and patch as needed.
- Spray the inside of rain barrels with water and a non-toxic cleaning solution. Vinegar works well.
- Manually remove weeds rather than using herbicides to kill them.
OUR VALLEY COMMUNITY
Events to support the planet and your community!

Now- April 21, 2020

"Love Where We Live" Art Contest
Create an ad for recycling and enter to win a prize!

May 4 - 10, 2020
Screen Free Week
Take the pledge

American Hiking Society
June 6, 2020
National Trails Day
Experience the trails in the Roanoke area

April 22, 2020
Earth Day
Celebrate the 50th Earth Day wherever you are

May 15, 2020
Bike to Work Day
Ride your bike to work, the store, or just go for a ride!

July 3, 2020
International Plastic Bag-Free Day

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