Summer 2020 will go down in history, for sure. One blessing is the many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors that are still available to us. The Appalachian Trail, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and many hiking, camping and outdoor recreation sites are available for use! With these opportunities for outdoor recreation now open for public access, I encourage all of us to remember the importance of Leave No Trace principals on public lands. These areas are maintained for use by all citizens, and it is our responsibility to use care when we enjoy them.

Our CVC staff has been outside stenciling storm drains in Roanoke, Vinton, and Salem, reminding residents that only rain should go down the drain. We are hoping to be onsite at the VAMC as soon as we are allowed. We are now hosting our Fall Waterways registrations at http://cleanvalley.org/events/fall-waterway-cleanup/. I encourage everyone to work within groups they live or work with on a regular basis. We have added in new CDC guidelines to our waivers for everyones safety.

See you outside!

Mary Ann Brenchick, Executive Director
Community Clean Water Actions

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, only 10-20 percent of stormwater that falls on forests or vegetated areas is not absorbed and runs off. However, almost 100 percent of stormwater that falls on paved surfaces is not absorbed. That means that almost all water that falls in developed areas becomes runoff, unless there are measures put in place to ensure water uptake.

While the Best Management Practices (BMPs) detailed in previous newsletters help homeowners reduce stormwater runoff on their property, many residents of cities do not have the ability to enact practices like wet holding ponds or green roofs in a shared living space. There are still plenty of ways to help reduce runoff in the community, in public spaces and in groups. City governments and nonprofit groups like Clean Valley Council help design and organize methods of reducing stormwater runoff as a community.

BMP #1: Naturescaping

Naturescaping involves native plants in landscape design, utilizing the vegetation native to an area to attract organisms like native pollinators and birds. Native plants are also considered to be better suited to withstand regional climate and storm cycles than non-native and ornamental landscaping plants.

Benefits include:

- Vegetation captures and releases runoff water more slowly than impermeable surfaces.
- Absorbs and filters contaminants out of water before reaching waterways.
- Provides wildlife habitats.
- Reduced reliance on fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation.

For More Information: www.cleanvalley.org | 540-345-5523 | info@cleanvalley.org
Community Clean Water Actions

BMP #2: Planting Trees

In commercial landscape design, trees are sometimes overlooked in favor of faster-growing ornamental shrubs or flowers. An adult tree can absorb up to 100 gallons of water in a single day, greatly reducing stormwater runoff. Trees planted in community spaces may take longer than small plants to reach their maturity, but the beauty and benefits they bring to an area are certainly worth it!

Benefits include:
- Can absorb millions of gallons of water each year.
- Roots hold soil in place to stop erosion.
- Provide habitat for wildlife, including native birds.
- Create shaded areas for recreation in public spaces.

Get Involved!
Volunteer at a Clean-up

Community clean-up efforts are vital to keeping trash and contaminants out of our waterways. Storm drains do not flow to water treatment facilities, but rather flow directly to bodies of water. Trash in storm drains can end up in local waterways and eventually find its way to the oceans.

Clean Valley Council organizes Clean Valley Day in the spring and the Fall Waterways Clean-up in the fall, where citizens of Roanoke join in community clean-up efforts. However, there are always opportunities to clean your neighborhood or community at any time during the year. Find a group of neighbors or other citizens who are interested in cleaning up a public space, or start out on your own! Visit this website to sign up for a clean-up on your own through Clean Valley Council.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2, 2020</td>
<td>National Tree Day</td>
<td>A great opportunity to practice a BMP and plant a tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18, 2020</td>
<td>World Water Monitoring Day</td>
<td>Become a citizen science monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21, 2020</td>
<td>Zero Emissions Day</td>
<td>Challenge yourself to avoid fossil fuels for a day</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3, 2020</td>
<td>Fall Waterways Cleanup with Clean Valley Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Time</td>
<td>CVC ANYtime Cleanups</td>
<td>Sign up to do a cleanup in your area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16-18, 2020</td>
<td>Roanoke GO Fest</td>
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