

Rain Water and Storm Water Management

Useful links:

Watershed Activities to Encourage Restoration
www.watershedactivities.com

For more information, please contact:

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Why must storm water be managed?

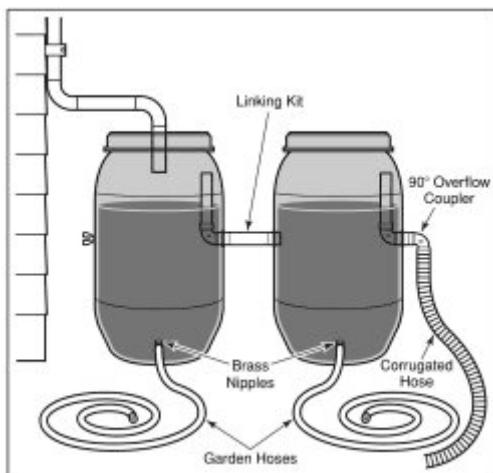
Storm water is water that originates during precipitation events, such as rain water or snowmelt. Storm water that does not soak into the ground becomes surface runoff. Storm water is of concern for two main issues: one related to the volume and timing of runoff water (flood control and water supplies) and the other related to potential contaminants that the water is carrying which contributes to water pollution (road salt, grease, oil, sediment).

Storm water is also a resource and ever growing in importance as the world's human population demand exceeds the availability of readily available water. Techniques of storm water harvesting, such as rain water collection in rain barrels or making rain gardens can potentially make urban environments self-sustaining in terms of water and help protect the environment at the same time.

The Benefits of Collecting Rain Water

- ✓ Promotes both water and energy conservation
- ✓ Home systems, such as rain barrels, are simple to install and operate
- ✓ May reduce your water bill
- ✓ Makes use of a natural resource
- ✓ Reduces flooding, storm water runoff, erosion, and contamination of surface water with pesticides, sediment, metals, and fertilizers
- ✓ Excellent source of water for landscape irrigation, with no chemicals such as fluoride and chlorine and no dissolved salts and minerals from the soil

Thank you to our partners:



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Activities to Encourage Restoration,
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Managing Storm Water – What you can do

- ✓ Capture water from a down spout into a rain barrel or cistern. Rain barrels are a cost effective way to reduce storm water runoff near its source and provide a source of irrigation water for use in gardening, lawn maintenance, washing cars, garden tools.
- ✓ Do not block your storm drain or divert storm water onto road ways.
- ✓ Create a residential rain garden, which is a shallow landscaped depression in the ground which captures runoff from your roof or driveway and allows it to soak into the ground
- ✓ Direct other downspouts away from pavement and toward grassy, mulched or planted areas.
- ✓ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and use rain water as your outdoor water for gardening.
- ✓ Learn to build your own rain barrel and place one at every corner of your buildings.
- ✓ Keep your property free of contaminates & pesticides which may mix with storm water and pollute ground water.
- ✓ Use permeable materials for driveways, walkways and landscaping that allow water to soak into the ground.
- ✓ Contact Bathurst Sustainable Development if you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel.