

You Can Make A Difference!

Keep pollutants out of the landscape and reduce runoff

- Redirect your downspout to a planting bed
- Plant more native trees, shrubs and other plants
- Install rain barrels and rain gardens in your yard
- Replace pavement with porous surfaces
- Spread the word about RainScaping in your neighborhood

Learn more about Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution at RainScaping.org!

Become a Watershed Steward!

The Watershed Stewards Academy, a program of Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, trains and supports community leaders to serve as Master Watershed Stewards in the protection, restoration, and conservation of our watersheds, working to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff in Anne Arundel County. If you live in Anne Arundel County, you can make a difference in the health of our waterways.



Master Watershed Stewards are trained leaders who engage communities to reduce polluted runoff. Stewards work with their communities to assess watersheds, educate communities, reduce pollutants, and take action.

Learn more at aawsa.org!



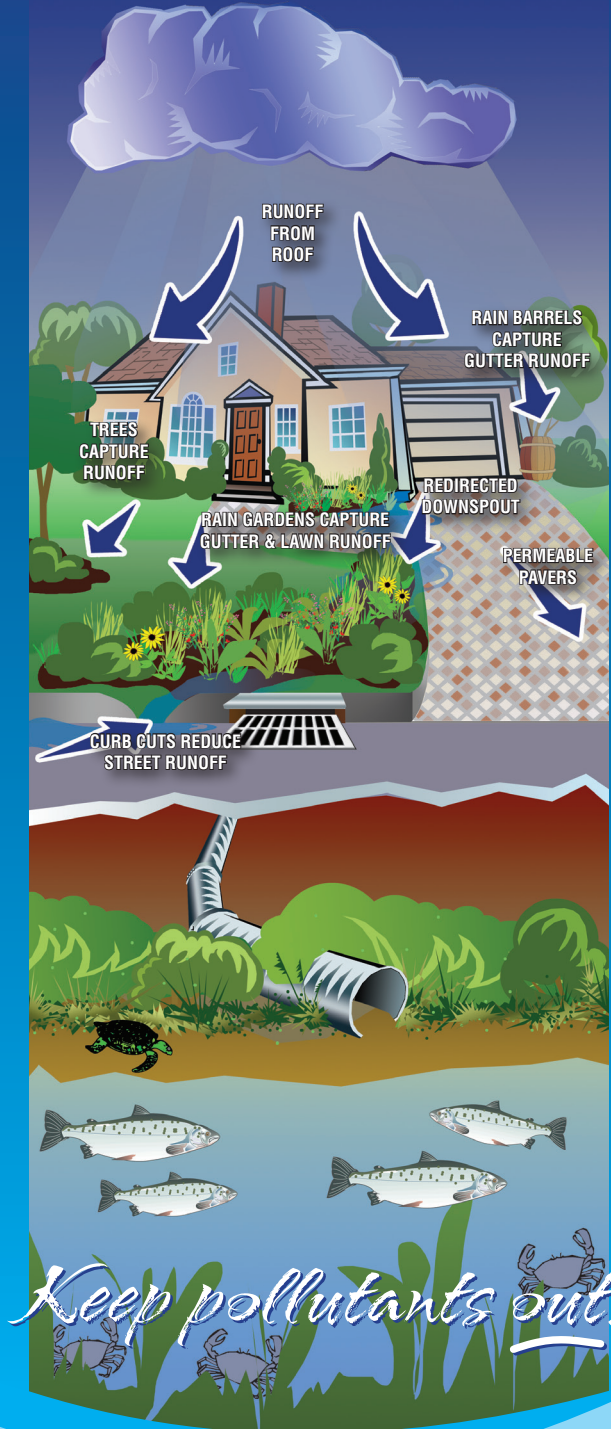
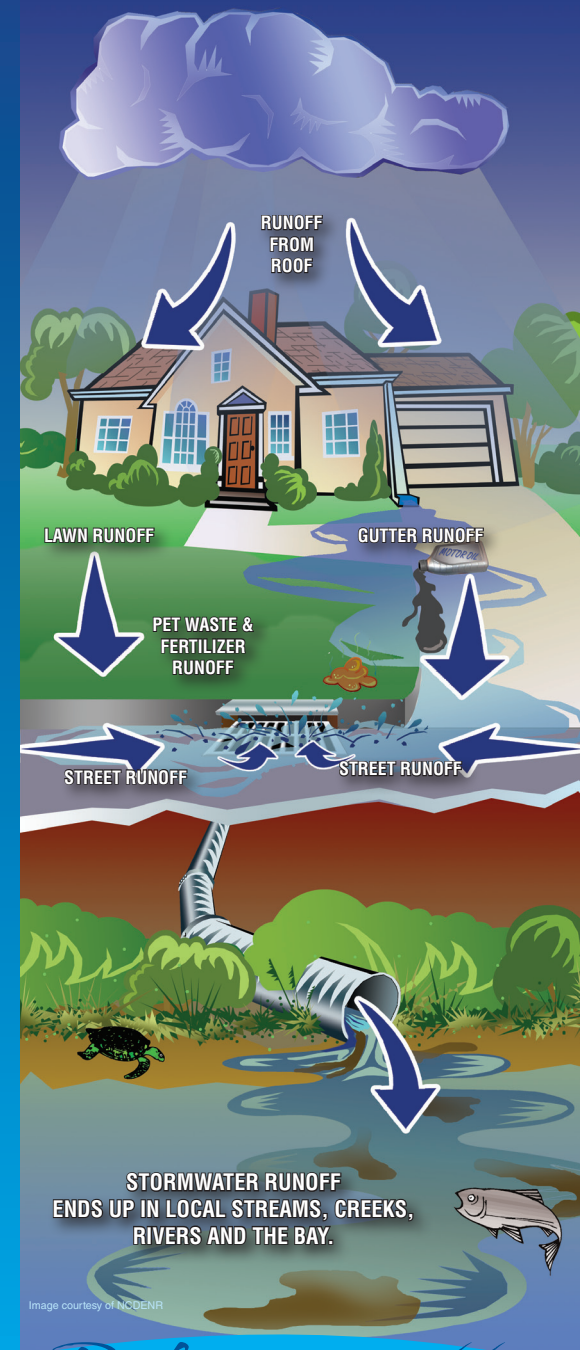
RainScaping...



Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.

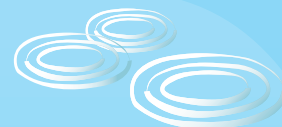
— Wendell Berry

Before & After



Reduce runoff...

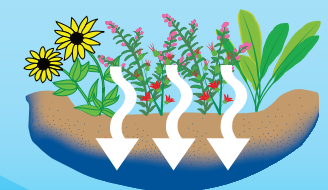
SLOW IT DOWN



SPREAD IT OUT



SOAK IT IN!!!



RainScaping.org

Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution!

RainScaping = Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution!

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is surface water that flows off roofs and pavement and fails to infiltrate, or soak into the soil after a rainstorm.

Why is Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

In undeveloped areas, like forests and fields, most stormwater is infiltrated slowly into the ground. This natural process filters out pollutants, recharges groundwater, and reduces the likelihood of erosion and flooding. However, in urban and suburban neighborhoods, most stormwater is unable to soak into the ground because of hard surfaces such as roads, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops. Traditional drainage systems concentrate runoff from these surfaces and remove it as quickly as possible by a system of gutters, curbs, pipes, and channels.



Untreated runoff from stormwater rushes off of impervious surfaces and is channeled to local streams, creeks, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The speed and volume of the stormwater can cause flooding and erosion.

Stormwater runoff also collects many different pollutants that are found on lawns and paved surfaces, such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, oil and grease, soap, pet waste, and trash.



These pollutants are carried into our waterways, making them unfit for human recreation, fouling drinking water supplies, and damaging fish and wildlife populations and the native vegetation they depend on. When we pollute our water, everyone is affected!

DID YOU KNOW?

Anne Arundel County Health Department issues the following advisory: “After rainfall, ALL Anne Arundel County beaches are under a no swimming and no direct water contact advisory for 48 hours due to predicted elevated bacteria levels.”

Be a Solution to Water Pollution!

RainScaping solutions restore the natural ability of our landscapes to handle stormwater by using plants, trees, and soil to absorb and filter runoff. By practicing RainScaping we can protect water quality by reducing runoff rates and volumes, and reducing the pollutant loads from human activities.

Plant More Trees

Trees soak up rainfall and protect soil against erosion by catching raindrops before they hit the ground. Tree roots break up tightly packed soil, increasing the amount of water the ground absorbs. Trees filter air and water, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and shade for homes, which can reduce energy costs.



with moisture-loving native plants. The rain water collected in rain gardens soaks in within a few hours to a day or two. This provides flood and erosion control, filtration, groundwater recharge, and water-cooling benefits.

Collect Rain in Barrels or Cisterns

The use of rain barrels and cisterns is an old idea that has been recycled. They temporarily store rainwater runoff from rooftops, reducing the flow of water into our streams, rivers, and the Bay. Rain barrels and cisterns are drums connected to a downspout that allow roof water to slowly soak into the ground via a soaker hose. Rainwater can also be used directly from barrels or cisterns to water your garden, or to wash your car, patio furniture, and other outdoor items. With every 1/2 inch of rainfall you can collect 300 gallons of rainwater off of a 1,000 square foot house.



Enhance Your Yard with Native Plants

Native plants are species that are adapted to a specific region—for example, the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They are adapted to the local soil and climate and don’t need chemical fertilizers or extra watering, once established. While not maintenance-free, native plants placed in their preferred growing conditions require less care than non-native species. And they provide food and habitat for wildlife. Native plantings and mulch can also replace high maintenance turf lawns and reduce chemical use.

Install Rain Gardens Using Native Vegetation

Take a walk through a forest and you’ll notice knolls and swales. Shaping the land in this fashion with rain gardens imitates nature by creating contours throughout the landscape, which allows rainwater to soak into the ground—as nature intended. Rain gardens capture runoff from rooftops, lawns, and pavement. Simple rain gardens are generally shallow depressions that are planted



Install Permeable Pavers and Pavement

Permeable pavers and pavement provide a solid surface—strong enough to hold heavy loads, like large vehicles—while at the same time these porous surfaces allow water to filter through and reach the underlying soils. Permeable pavers are ideal for patios, sidewalks, and driveways.



Reduce Your Pollution Input!

Reduce Chemical Use

Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed. Pesticides and fertilizers can be harmful to people and animals. Use natural pesticides which are just as effective. Remember, native plants don’t need fertilizers.

Scoop the Poop

Clean up after your pets on the streets and in your backyard; bag and place it in the trash. Never put pet waste into storm drains or waterways. A single gram of dog poop can contain 23 million bacteria and is a major source of pollution in many areas.



Manage Waste Responsibly

Recycle where possible or throw away your trash responsibly. Trash that is thrown into the street can be carried to rivers and the Bay where it can be harmful to animals. To reduce plastic bag use, purchase and use reusable bags.

Fix Leaking Cars and Boats

Oils, antifreeze, and other liquids that leak from cars and boats can be very harmful to wildlife and the environment. If you notice a leak in your vehicle, get it fixed right away. Also recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids.

