



Stormwater Dollars At Work

From December 2013 to February 2014, BSB's stormwater crew completed a total of 55 work orders, a variety of services were provided.

A total of 281 feet of televised video line inspection was conducted resulting in a total of 40 feet of storm drains cleaned.

Drain inlet inspections were also performed resulting in 639 being cleaned and 11 being repaired or replaced.

BSB's crew also cleaned 625 feet of ditches.

The staff at BSB works hard to provide efficient and effective stormwater management. It is our hope our customers will also do their part in protecting the environment, infrastructure, and public health by practicing responsible practices in their everyday lives.

Remember, only rain down the drain



Beckley Sanitary Board
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HYDROLOGIC

CITIZENS GUIDE TO PREVENT POLLUTED RUNOFF & PROTECT NATURE

www.beckleysanitaryboard.org

April 2014

Free Soil Testing

Fertilizers are essentially nutrients used by plants to live. Just like humans, plants can only use so much food. Fertilizer not used by the plant mixes with rain and becomes storm water pollution.

Nutrients from fertilizers, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, promote algae blooms and excessive plant growth. Algae depletes oxygen making it unavailable to fish and other aquatic life. Algae blooms and excessive plants limit much needed sunlight.

To prevent stormwater pollution, The Beckley Sanitary Board urges people to have their soil tested before applying fertilizers. Soil testing kits are free. A soil test report gives you precise nutrient requirements for the soil type and plant type in your situation. Soil testing takes the guess-work out of lime and fertilizer purchases.

To get your free soil test kit you can visit <http://raleigh.ext.wvu.>, or pick one up at the Beckley Sanitary Board Payment window.

Here are some practical tips which will limit the amount of fertilizer available to be washed into storm drains and streams:

- Have your soil tested.; Apply only the kinds and amounts of nutrients that your grass and plants need.
- Once your soil has been tested, follow the instructions that come with commercial fertilizer to make sure you apply no more than is required.
- Apply fertilizer in the fall when it is most beneficial to cool season grasses and least likely to end up in runoff.
- Avoid leaving fertilizer on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways where they are most likely to be washed into a storm drain, where it will end up in a stream. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces onto the lawn or into the garden.

If possible, avoid applying fertilizer just before a rain storm.

For questions about obtaining your free soil test kit you can call the Beckley Sanitary Board at 304-256-1760.

CREEK WEEK APRIL 26—May 4

Creek Week is coming to Beckley April 26—May 4. A week filled with Fun, Educational, and FREE events around the city of Beckley. Come see what lives in our creeks, make soil babies, tour our wastewater treatment plant, or learn about rain gardens. For more information or to get a schedule of events call the BSB 304-256-1760.

**REPORT WATER POLLUTION;
CALL THE HOTLINE: 304-894-8943**

RAINWATER HARVESTING CAN CREATE SAFE, DECENTRALIZED WATER SUPPLIES

The disastrous chemical spill that contaminated the Kanawha Valley's water supply reinforced the critical importance of clean water and cast light on the potential of harvesting rainwater to provide distributed sources of safe water.

A well-designed, installed and maintained rainwater harvesting system can provide significant amounts of high-quality water for potable and non-potable, residential and commercial use. Given an average 45 inches of annual West Virginia precipitation, a 1,500-square-foot residential roof could collect over 40,000 gallons annually, delivering more than 100 gallons per day of high-quality water for potable and/or non-potable uses.

One of the principles of rainwater management is to slow the water runoff by collecting and using it onsite and slowly infiltrating any excess overflow. Collected rainwater can be an important source of high-quality water for crops, greenhouses, livestock and if properly treated by even humans.

There are many reasons to harvest rainwater: quality of the resource; reduced appliance maintenance due to low mineral content; availability of a secure, onsite water source; and greater nutritional value for crops and gardens. Increasingly, people are attracted to rainwater for the quality of the resource. While surface and ground waters sources may have contaminants from a variety of sources, rainwater has fewer contaminants to deal with, and those can be reduced or eliminated by discarding the first portion of each rain event by using a "first divert" system, and by using the components and materials approved by the National Sanitation Foundation for rainwater collection.

Modern tanks used for residential and commercial applications are available in all sizes and can exceed one million gallons. The Romans built huge cisterns under Istanbul; the largest stored 80,000 cubic meters (21 million gallons).

For more information on rainwater harvesting see <http://www.harvesth2o.com>.



Spring Stormwater Tips

- Plant trees, shrubs and ground cover to help rainwater soak into the ground. Keep the soil covered; bare soil is the primary cause of erosion. Mulch bare areas with straw, grass clippings, stones or wood chips.
- Have soil tested for acidity (pH). Spread Lime if it is too acidic. It's best not to fertilize until Fall.
- Consider growing clover in your lawn; its hardy, stands up to wear and produces nitrogen needed by other lawn grasses.

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