

From Your Storm water
Manager:

Storm water runoff's effect on local water quality is an issue that each of us contributes to. The day to day activities of living in a watershed, such as driving and washing cars, fertilizing lawns or not cleaning up after your pet generates pollutants that end up in our streams and rivers.

One of the biggest challenges with stormwater management is changing human behavior. Unlike wastewater treatment of your sanitary sewer, which is managed by cleaning wastewater at a treatment plant, stormwater pollution is most efficiently managed by preventing the pollutants from becoming part of runoff.

In this newsletter and upcoming editions, we will provide you with some simple ideas and suggestions of things you can do and behaviors you can adopt that will help reduce pollution from entering our waterways.

Working together we will be able to address the water quality challenges facing our local waterways.



Beckley Sanitary Board
301 S. Heber St.
Beckley, WV 25801
(304)256-1760

HYDROLOGIC

CITIZENS GUIDE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

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Do You Live In A Watershed?

A watershed is an area where all the water, whether stream flow or ground water, flows to a common waterway. A watershed can be as small as the roof of your house where water drains into the gutter and downspout and from there to the yard. The water then flows to a storm drain system or a stream and eventually to a river. We all live in a watershed! Think of it as an interconnected system made up of land, water, plants, animals, people and all of their houses, driveways, roofs, etc.

The Beckley Storm Water Utility serves all property within the 19 square mile Beckley Urban Watershed. The Beckley Urban Watershed is part of the larger Piney Creek Watershed. A 136 square mile watershed, which flows to the New River.

Wintery Mix: Snow & Stormwater Runoff

Winter is here and melting snow, like a rainstorm, can contribute to runoff pollution. The situation is made worse when salt is used to melt the snow and limestone chips and cinders are used to provide traction on area roadways. As snow melts, salts are dissolved in the runoff that flows to local streams. These salts are toxic to aquatic life. Just like your car, the salts in the runoff also corrode metal storm sewer pipes.

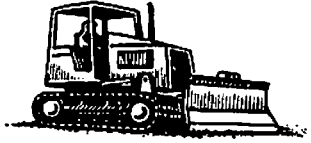
This winter you can prevent storm water pollution by:

- ◆ Using salt and other chemicals sparingly
- ◆ Use less toxic or nontoxic winter deicers
- ◆ Remove snow by shoveling first
- ◆ Limit use of aggregates for traction, which are a leading contributor to storm sewer clogging/failure & accumulate in area stream bottoms

STORMWATER DOLLARS AT WORK

- ◆ Eliminated sanitary sewer leaks into 2 storm sewers
- ◆ Completed 62 work orders
- ◆ Flushed and Cleaned over 1,100 feet of storm sewer
- ◆ Video Inspection of 650 feet of storm sewer
- ◆ Inspected and cleaned over 60 storm sewer inlets removing over 10 cubic yards of material
- ◆ Repaired a storm sewer break on Kanawha Street, that had caused a parking lot collapse
- ◆ Improved storm sewer in Harper Road neighborhood to alleviate property flooding

Managing Construction Site Runoff :



Learn How to Improve Your Construction Practices from a National Expert

Did you know that plain old dirt is the leading cause of pollution in WV? Mud, also known as sediment, destroys aquatic habitat, carries other attached pollutants (such as metals and nutrients) and clogs storm sewers and streams contributing to flooding.

Active construction sites are a leading source of sediment. Because of this, the Beckley storm water utility is required by law to develop a program to monitor and enforce construction site runoff regulations.

This is a new challenge to both the stormwater utility and area contractors. Across WV, widespread noncompliance with environmental regulations by construction contractors is a well documented problem. To combat this, the storm water utility is sponsoring a free workshop for construction workers to teach the importance of proper sediment and erosion control and proven approaches to manage construction site runoff effectively. This workshop will be led by Barry Tanning of TetraTech. Mr. Tanning is a nationally recognized trainer, who is regularly featured at US EPA workshops and on agency webcasts. The free workshop will be held on Friday, February 8th at the Raleigh County Convention Center. The workshop will focus on training construction site operators, but anyone is eligible to attend. Registration is required. Training certificates will be given to workshop participants. For more information or to register contact Mandy Wuchevich at 256-1760.

What is the Clean Water Act?

The Clean Water Act is a Federal Law that was passed in 1972 with the aim of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our nation's waters. The waters have improved dramatically since the passage of the act, but polluted bodies of water still exist, largely due to stormwater runoff.

The Clean Water Act has been amended by Congress several times since it was originally passed. The latest amendment has put many cities including Beckley in Phase II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's stormwater program. This means our municipality is required to implement a stormwater management program for the Beckley urban watershed to reduce the amount of pollution in stormwater runoff. Clean water is everyone's responsibility.

Cigarette Butts: They Don't Belong in the Storm Drains

Cigarette butts are not only bad for your health; they are also harmful to the environment. Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the U.S. Littered cigarette butts get carried by the wind, rain, and other elements into storm drains. These butts contain many hazardous chemicals, including cadmium, arsenic, lead, and tar. Once these chemicals enter our storm sewer systems, they then travel to the nearest stream and pollute our waterways.

So, remember, the next time you flick your cigarette on the ground, you won't just be putting it on the ground — you could be putting it in your water. In partnership with Raleigh County Make It Shine, BSB promotes a cooperative cost share program, which local businesses can utilize to purchase cease fire containers to safely dispose of cigarette butts. This popular program has prevented thousands of cigarette butts from being littered in the watershed. If your business would like to purchase a discounted cease fire container, contact Joe Guffy with the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce @ 252-7328. Please let them know BSB referred you to them

Piney Creek Watershed Association

Since 2004, BSB has partnered with the Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) on community projects to improve water quality. PCWA is a group that citizens can join to promote watershed stewardship and volunteer on service projects. Upcoming service opportunities in 2008 include a rain barrel workshop, rain garden construction, storm drain marking and volunteer water quality monitoring. PCWA is a great way for youth to get community service hours and learn about the environment. For more information, contact Kari Metcalf of PCWA at 304-228-1680.