

June 2024

Community Efforts with Local Partners



Car Washing

It's car washing season!

Ever notice how the runoff from washing the car flows into storm drains? That water can carry pollution like soap, oil, and grease straight into our waterways, harming fish and degrading recreational areas. Let's switch to washing our cars in the grass, or using commercial car washes which capture and treat the runoff. Small changes can make a big difference!

Recently, Beckley Sanitary Board helped organize a strong team of environmental organizations for a hefty litter clean-up project in the newly designated Piney Creek Preserve. Student volunteers from WVU Tech Biology Club and Woodrow Wilson High School Earth Club teamed up with staff from the City of Beckley and Piney Creek Watershed Association in honor of Earth Week 2024.

More than 15 volunteers were able to collect and dispose of over 800 pounds of litter, including 5 tires and a pile of roof shingles. This project was launched as a joint effort with the West Virginia Land Trust to protect the land and the waterways of the Piney Creek Preserve.

BSB also hosted volunteers from Concord University and Woodrow Wilson High School to place storm drain markings on several storm drains around town. These markings bring awareness to citizens that storm drains are directly connected to our waterways. Everything that enters a storm drain goes directly to a local creek; so be mindful of what goes in them!



Volunteers from WVU Tech, Woodrow Wilson High School, City of Beckley, and Piney Creek Watershed Association with some of the trash they collected.



Concord University volunteers marking storm drains.



Woodrow Wilson High School Earth Club volunteers collecting litter with PCWA Associate Director, Jim Fedders.

Caring for our waterways and environment is a community effort. Beckley Sanitary Board is committed to partnership in the community. Keep a lookout on our social media pages for more opportunities for you, your organizations, and your families to be involved in protecting our land and waters!

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Trash Trout Update



An umbrella captured by a Trash Trout.

Beckley's two Trash Trouts have been working hard at catching floating litter over the past year! Between the Cranberry Creek and the Little Whitestick Creek Trash Trouts, nearly 300 pounds of floating litter have been captured and removed. That's 300 pounds of trash that would likely still be littering our creeks right



Floating litter captured on Cranberry Creek.

now, had it not been caught by the Trash Trouts. A year's worth of litter collection has told us that Styrofoam and plastic bottles tend to be the most abundant types of trash in Beckley.

If you'd like to help with a Trash Trout clean up, contact our office and follow us on Facebook.

Stormwater Management Infrastructure

Beckley works hard protecting community members and the environment through stormwater management. One way we are doing this is by installing and using smart stormwater detention ponds that use weather based technology to help manage stormwater runoff. There is currently one pond on Ewart Avenue and one on City Avenue. Each adaptive "iPond" is equipped with an automated control valve which uses Opti® technology and cloud-based software to respond to real-time weather conditions. Forecasted weather data is used to determine when a valve should be open, what percentage that valve should be open, and when it should be closed. For example, when a significant rainfall is predicted, the valve will open before the rain begins to make sure the pond is ready to catch the water. When the rain begins, the valve will shut to catch and hold the rain water until it is safe to release it slowly. The holding period not only prevents large volumes of water from flooding downstream areas, but also gives pollutants a chance to settle out before the water continues on its way to the creek.

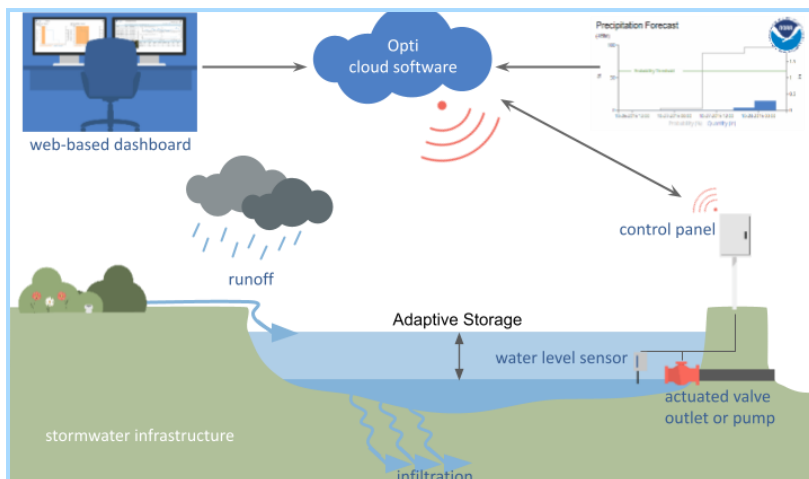
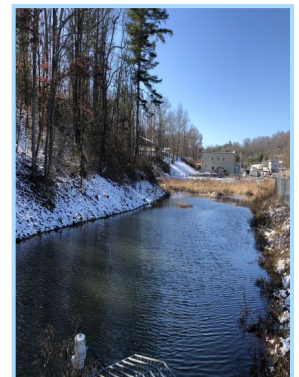


Diagram of an iPond.



One of Beckley's iPonds when drained and when full.

To report suspected stormwater pollution, please call BSB at 304-256-1760.