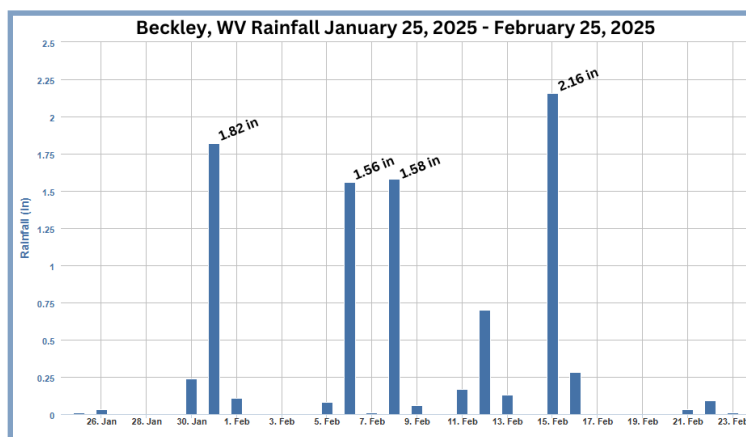


April 2025

A Storm-Ravaged Winter

With nearly 10 inches of rain in January and February, numerous snow events, and many days of frigid temperatures, this winter has been anything but calm. Here at Beckley Sanitary Board, our staff has been working hard to help manage stormwater and mitigate flooding in the Beckley area. Each storm is unique, and the rain event on February 15th was an interesting one. While the amount of rainfall on February 15th and 16th was significant, many of the effects of the storm were related to the season's ground conditions. Before the heavy rainfall, the ground was already saturated due to snowmelt, and some areas still had frozen ground. These conditions prevented rain from being absorbed in the soil and caused much higher rates of runoff. BSB staff and crews spent many hours before and during the storm cleaning drains, surveying, and inspecting infrastructure to help manage the impact of more than 2 inches of rain falling on saturated ground. And we haven't stopped there; BSB staff are continuing to observe and study the impacts and behaviors of weather events like these to improve the Beckley stormwater system so people and the environment can stay safe. As Spring rain showers approach, here are some things to remember as a homeowner or business owner:

1. Avoid direct contact with flood waters. Bacteria, chemicals, and debris can be in these waters. Never allow children to play in floodwater, and disinfect contaminated surfaces.
2. Never drive into flooded areas. Especially in the dark, it is difficult to determine flood water's depth and how quickly it is moving. Remember—Turn around, don't drown.
3. Report potential pollution and sanitary sewer spills to BSB.
4. You can help prevent flooding too! If you have drain inlets near your home or business, check them to make sure they're free from leaves and debris.



Spring Blooms

Did you know your flower garden can help protect our waterways? Simple practices like using fertilizers and pesticides responsibly and planting water-loving plants in flood-prone areas can make a big difference. Applying chemicals only as needed prevents stormwater pollution, while deep-rooted plants help absorb excess water and reduce ground saturation.

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New Pipe Repair Technology

Recently, Beckley Sanitary Board has incorporated an innovative new method of pipe repair into their workflow that will increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact. This approach utilizes trenchless technology, allowing BSB crews to repair broken pipes more quickly without extensive excavation. The process begins with the use of the Sanitary Board's remote-control pipe inspection camera car.



An environmental staff member operating the pipe inspection camera car to locate the break.

A specialized repair machine is deployed down the pipe with the camera car to the site of the break. Using compressed air, the machine applies a durable stainless steel sleeve to the interior of the pipe, effectively sealing off leaks and reinforcing the integrity of the pipe.

This advancement is great news for repair teams and the environmental team. By significantly reducing the time and effort required for sanitary sewer repairs, BSB can complete more projects with greater efficiency, minimizing pollution risks and service disruptions.



A repair team staff member entering a man-hole to assemble the pipe repair device.

Catching Trash in the Watershed

The Trash Trouts™ in Beckley were due for a much needed cleanout after the winter months. Staff from Beckley Sanitary Board joined up with Piney Creek Watershed Association and the City of Beckley to remove all of the built up vegetation and trash that had been caught in the Trash Trouts™. Five hours and hundreds of shovelfuls later, the Trouts are clean! These partnership efforts help remove litter and other water pollutants from the creek, and protect the health of Beckley's watershed.

The crews removed:

- 194 plastic bottles
- 10 glass bottles
- 12 recreational balls
- 99 total pounds of trash



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