

# MANAGING WATER IN YOUR YARD



Disconnecting your downspout allows water to absorb into your garden or lawn instead into the storm drain system.



Gardens can help absorb rain.



Mulching around plants can keep water from evaporating and allow plants to use it.



Planting trees can provide shade and protection from storms and wind. Trees also have large capacity for water absorption.

## OTHER TIPS



Dispose of trash and hazardous chemicals correctly.



Maintenance cars and other vehicles so chemicals do not leak or spill.



OUR  
*Water*  
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN



P.O. Box 7578  
Huntington, WV 25777  
(304) 781-1948

[carrie.denvir@huntingtonswu.com](mailto:carrie.denvir@huntingtonswu.com)

# HOME OWNERS GUIDE TO *Environmental Friendly Practices*



# YARD MAINTENANCE



Leaf litter and grass clippings should be kept out of the street. They can block stormdrains and when excessive nutrients end up in streams, it pollutes the water.



Setting your mower to 3 inches or higher can allow grass to establish a healthy root base. The roots will be able to absorb more water, thus reduce runoff.



Leaving mowed grass on your lawn can also provide nutrients directly back to your soil for a healthier lawn.



# FERTILIZERS



Most lawns do not need fertilizers. If yours does, then apply the correct amount when it is dry not during a rain event. Use Phosphorus free fertilizer if possible.



Fertilizers that end up in the streams will cause excessive algae growth. Too much algae can use up the available oxygen in the water killing aquatic plants and animals.

# GARDENING



Composted leaf litter and grass clippings can be used in your garden.



Using native plants in your garden can support more water storage and provide food for pollinators.



Native plants use less water and are more resistant to pests and diseases.



# PET WASTE



Pet waste is not a fertilizer, but will kill grass because of excessive Nitrogen.



Pet Waste carries harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites.



Bacteria from pet waste is one of the main pollutants in creeks and rivers.



Cleaning up pet waste makes a huge impact on water quality.



# INSTALL A RAIN BARREL



Rain Barrels provide free water that can be used later to water lawns, gardens, or indoor plants.



Rain barrels conserve water during a drought.



Rain barrels reduce the amount of stormwater runoff discharged to our streams and rivers.