

## HELP KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!

Another way you can help preserve our streams is through DuPage County's Adopt-A-Stream program. Volunteer groups can work to keep our streams clean and attractive by removing debris and trash in and along our waterways, removing invasive vegetation, and by monitoring the quality of the water.

DuPage County Stormwater Management will provide guidance to help coordinate your group's efforts and publically acknowledge groups for their continued service.

For more information, contact Jan Roehl by email at [jroehl@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehl@theconservationfoundation.org) or by phone at (630) 428-4500 ext. 121.



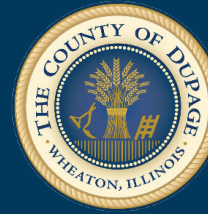
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# DUPAGE COUNTY

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



# SPRINGING INTO SUMMER

Sustainable Practices for Spring & Summer

## SPRING BMPS



*Spring is a time to begin thinking about lawn care and home improvement projects. If done properly, your normal routines and maintenance can actually improve the quality of DuPage County waterways by minimizing pollutants in stormwater runoff.*

*Water use skyrockets in the summer—but with good reason. People take pride in their lawns and want them to look pristine during summer months. It's important to begin a natural lawn care regimen in the spring because your good habits will carry into summer.*

## SUMMER BMPS



### Natural Lawn Care

Natural lawn care practices can begin in the spring with an inexpensive soil test to determine what—if any—nutrients your lawn needs. In addition, spring is the time to get in the habit of allowing your grass to grow 3 inches before mowing. This improves its health by allowing roots to grow longer, which also helps to remove pollutants from runoff. Also, remember—do not dump your lawn clippings into waterways!

### Natural Lawn Care

Now that you've tested your soil in the spring, you can begin naturally fertilizing as needed. If your soil lacks nutrients, consider using compost instead of a harmful fertilizer. Eliminate pesticide use by hand pulling any weeds. Although you're not mowing as often, summer is also a great time to begin composting lawn clippings, leaves and other natural materials.

### Green Infrastructure

Spring is also an excellent time to begin thinking about growing gardens, specifically rain gardens with deep-rooted native plants to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff. Rainwater harvesting is also a popular technique to capture and store stormwater for later use, such as lawn irrigation. This can be accomplished with a simple rain barrel or an intricate underground system.

### Green Infrastructure

In addition, after spring showers, many homeowners may consider repaving their driveways. Permeable pavers and porous concrete are always the best option to clean water and prevent localized flooding. Porous surfaces allow stormwater runoff to permeate through, which keeps the polluted runoff out of storm sewers and streams. If this isn't an option for you, try to avoid coal tar-based sealants, which can be toxic to surrounding plants, groundwater and humans.

### IN THE *SPRING*

- Test your soil to know what nutrients it needs
- Allow grass to grow 3 inches before mowing
- Remove only 1/3 of the leaf blade when mowing
- Plant a rain garden using native plants
- Use a rain barrel or larger harvesting system to capture and reuse rainwater

### IN THE *SUMMER*

- Use compost instead of fertilizer when necessary
- Hand pull or spot spray weeds
- Begin composting lawn clippings, leaves and other natural materials
- Use permeable pavers or asphalt when redoing driveways
- Avoid coal tar-based sealants on driveways