

## APPENDIX 4

### TOP TEN TIPS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

It is important for homeowners and business owners to first understand the sources and types of pollution generated in their own homes, businesses, and on their properties. Only then can efforts be made to eliminate or properly handle and abate issues or problems. Although the type and quantity of pollutants typically generated at these locations is minimal, their cumulative impact is large. Educating residents and business owners of the small steps they can take to protect their streams is a very important part of any stormwater management program. Homeowners and businesses can be stewards of the stormwater at their homes, in their neighborhoods, in their municipalities, and anywhere they see stormwater problems.

At a minimum, following the Top Ten Tips for Residents and Businesses can significantly help improve the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff leaving residential and commercial/industrial properties.

1. Implement such ideas as less grass, more native plants – Planting native plants in place of turf grass will require less water, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and will create habitat and food sources for native wildlife and pollinators.
2. Mow grass at a height of 3” – By keeping grass higher, you will promote a stronger root system which will require less water and will prevent most weed seeds from germinating, thus less use of chemical herbicides.
3. Limit fertilizer use – excess fertilizer use results in increased nutrients (primarily nitrogen and phosphorus) that runs off lawns and into storm drains, resulting in pollution in the streams.
4. Plant more trees – trees reduce runoff by slowing rainfall and absorbing water that could otherwise result in runoff, they stabilize soil to prevent erosion, and cool our houses and streets by providing shade.
5. Use rain barrels to catch and reuse rainwater – rain barrels reduce the amount of stormwater runoff by capturing it at the source and can in turn be used to water gardens.
6. Construct rain gardens to catch runoff – rain gardens capture stormwater runoff and allow for infiltration back into the ground – replenishing groundwater.
7. Construct vegetated swales – vegetated swales capture and infiltrate stormwater and reduce runoff.
8. Install green roofs – green roofs capture rainfall that would otherwise result in stormwater runoff, they can reduce heat loss from buildings and aid in cooling buildings, and create habitat for wildlife.
9. Avoiding soap with car washes – soap is harmful to fish and aquatic life and is discharged into streams along with the wash water. Avoid soaps completely or wash your car where the wash water can infiltrate into the ground and not result in runoff.
10. Pick up pet waste and dispose properly – pet waste contains bacteria and is high in nutrients. When not picked up, it enters the stormwater system and is discharged as pollution into the streams.

Please visit the link below for access to the presentation provided at the municipal workshops.

<http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/documents/Top10TipsforResidentsandBusinesses2016-REDUCED.pdf>