

Living Streamside

Townhouses/RowHomes

Guide to Designing your Property and Protecting our Watershed



BACKYARD BUFFER PROGRAM

This guide is intended to help you learn how to protect our streams and rivers with a well thought-out design and a list of projects that you may implement on your property.



- 1. Install a rain barrel** to capture rooftop stormwater runoff and use this water as a resource for irrigation. Try to use all the water in the barrel between storms so the barrel can capture water from the next rain fall event (see Tip Sheet #6 *Rain Barrels* for more information).
- 2. Direct rainfall runoff (stormwater) from roof downspout to a rain garden** by digging a swale/shallow depression or by piping the water from downspout to rain garden to capture stormwater. Overflow from rain barrel can be conveyed to rain garden.
- 3. Build a rain garden** to capture and infiltrate stormwater into the ground (recharging groundwater and stream baseflow). Deep rooted plants filter water and loosen soil (see *Pennsylvania Rain Garden Guide* for more information).
- 4. Irrigate vegetable garden** with water from a rain barrel (see Tip Sheet #6 *Rain Barrels* for more information).
- 5. Compost bins** are a way to recycle organic yard and household material for garden use. Containerizing compost helps prevent rain from washing the material (excessive nutrients) into the nearby stream.
- 6. Green lawn basics** such as reducing/eliminating fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use will improve stream water quality (see Tip Sheet #2 *Green Lawn Basics* for more information).
- 7. Porous/permeable driveways & patios** allow stormwater to soak into the ground (infiltrate) (see Tip Sheet #7 *Permeable/Porous Pavers* for more information).
- 8. Planter islands** add privacy and habitat while reducing high-maintenance lawn practices (see Tip Sheet #3 *Native Plants for Pennsylvania* for more information).
- 9. North side evergreen tree plantings** can serve as wind breaks (see Tip Sheet #3 *Native Plants for Pennsylvania* for more information).
- 10. Eliminate dumping** of lawn clippings, leaves and other debris into stream. This will prevent excessive nutrients from impairing water quality (see Tip Sheet #5 *Composting* for more information).
- 11. No-mow zone** is a stream buffer where mowing does not occur and Pennsylvania native plants are grown. This improves quality of stormwater reaching the stream, traps sediment, creates habitat, reduces the area of lawn that needs to be mowed and could reduce property loss (see Tip Sheet #1 *No-mow Zone* for more information).



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