

Stark County Storm Water
Public Involvement/Public Education
Committee (P.I.P.E.) Members:

City of Canton

Village of East Canton

Jackson Township

Perry Township

Plain Township

Stark County Health Department

Stark County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Stark County Regional Planning
Commission

Board of Stark County Commissioners

Storm Water Education Program

(330) 451-7405



The
R's
of Rainwater:

Reduce

Reuse

Replenish

Reduce

Storm water runoff is precipitation that does not soak into the ground where it falls. When water runs off yards, streets, and parking lots into storm sewers or directly into waterways, it carries sediments that clog streams and reduce oxygen in the water, as well as chemicals toxic to aquatic ecosystems and capable of rendering water supplies undrinkable.

Reduce Runoff

- Where possible direct downspouts and gutters to drain onto the lawn or plant beds.
- Use mulch, bricks, flagstone, gravel, or other porous surfaces for walkways, patios, and drives.
- Collect and store runoff from your roof in a rain barrel.
- Create swales (low areas) to catch, hold and filter storm water.
- Pick up after pets. This helps reduce bacterial and nutrient pollution entering storm drains.
- Sweep grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil from driveways and streets back onto the lawn. Remove trash from street gutters.
- Clean up oil spills and leaks on the driveway. Spread cat litter over oil, sweep up and throw away.



Reuse

Benefits of Using Rainwater

- It's free.
- It lessens demand on the water supply.
- It saves money on utility bills.
- It makes efficient use of a valuable resource.
- It diminishes flooding, erosion, and the flow to storm water drains.
- It reduces the contamination of surface water with sediments, fertilizers, and pesticides from rainwater runoff resulting in cleaner lakes, rivers, and oceans.
- It's good for irrigation and plants thrive because stored rainwater is free from pollutants as well as salts, minerals, and other contaminants.
- It adds life to equipment dependent on water to operate, as rainwater does not produce corrosion or scales like hard water.
- It's good for laundry use as rainwater is soft and lowers the need for detergents.
- It can be used to recharge groundwater.



Replenish

Rain gardens have many benefits. They help to reduce storm water runoff, but they also replenish or recharge dwindling ground water supplies.

- Rain gardens help capture rainwater directed from roofs or other surfaces. Constructed to lie a few inches below ground, they typically consist of two layers: a top, soil layer for growing plants and a lower, permeable layer of sand and gravel.
- When it rains, water initially pools in the garden's plant zone, percolating quickly from there into the permeable layer underneath. The permeable zone then stores the water until it seeps into the subsoil.
- If interested mainly in ground-water recharge, a rain garden does best if it's only about a tenth of the impervious surface.
- Rain gardens also help replenish our aquifers and groundwater-fed rivers and ponds by recharging rainwater into the ground rather than down the stormdrains.

