

West Alford Road, West Stockbridge

Polluted stormwater runoff results when rain or snow melt runs off of hard surfaces such as roads, roofs and pavement picking up pollutants such as sediment, motor oil, road salt and dog waste.

Climate Change - What does it mean for me and my family?

In Berkshire County, the frequency of heavy rain events has increased. Recent intense storms have washed out roads and increased flooding on streets and private properties. Our winter weather is now a mix of snow, ice and rain, increasing flooding due to frozen ground and ice dams especially when snowfall is followed by rain.

Stormwater Runoff- Why is it a Problem?

Stormwater is often channeled to the nearest water body to prevent street flooding resulting in quickly rising river levels and increased pollutant loads. For example, after a storm, bacteria levels in our lakes/rivers are often unsafe for recreation. Greater stream volume and velocity results in bank erosion that can lead to loss of land, and higher flows can overwhelm or damage road-stream crossings.

Look to Nature for the Solution!

Landscaping using Nature-Based Solutions:

- Improves water quality by filtering stormwater through the soil
- Promotes groundwater recharge
- Provides ecologically important habitat
- Reduces flooding and maintenance costs
- Increases property values

Nature-based solutions are adaptation measures focused on the protection, restoration, and management of ecological systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience and sequester carbon.

Revegetate Water Fronts, Reduce Erosion



Revegetating stream banks and lake-fronts reduces erosion, helps keep water cool and shaded, and absorbs stormwater. Increasing lake front vegetation can reduce geese activity, too!

Plant Native Plants, Support Pollinators



Converting lawn area to native plants provides food and housing for pollinators, moves carbon from the atmosphere to the soil and reduces maintenance. In wet areas, thirsty native plants soak up water.

Build Rain Gardens, Encourage Infiltration



Capturing runoff in a rain garden recharges groundwater, reduces water pollution and provides wildlife habitat. Employ an expert or DIY. NOTE: Permit may be required and Dig Safe notification needed.

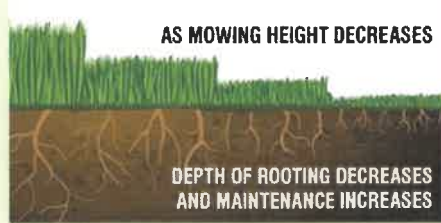
More Nature-Based Landscaping Tips!

Redirect Downspouts, Reduce Runoff



Redirect roof runoff from hard driveways to lawn away from the house, a rain garden, or rain barrels. Let it soak into the ground, recharge the ground water rather than creating runoff.

Mow High, Reduce Lawn Area, Reduce Lawn Maintenance



Mow your lawn high (2 - 3 inches) to promote deeper roots and reduce the need for watering. Mulch the grass clippings to return nutrients to the soil, aerate in the fall. Consider converting unused lawn area to native plantings.

Install Rain Barrels, Conserve Water



Just 1/4 inch of rainfall on a typical roof will fill a rain barrel. A modest amount of rainfall can supply much or all of your outdoor watering needs - a full rain barrel will water a 200 square foot garden.

Source: mass.gov

Upsized Culverts Improve Climate Resilience!

Richmond and West Stockbridge to Identify Priority Culverts for Replacement

Replacing culverts with structures that span the stream and its banks allows increased stream volume and debris to move safely under the road, decreasing maintenance as culverts are less likely to clog or overtop. Each town is in the process of replacing one priority culvert and identifying more. Additional benefits include:

Increased Biodiversity

Eliminates barriers for fish and wildlife therefore increasing in-stream habitats including access to cold-water streams. Access to coldwater streams is especially important for cold-water species such as native brook trout to maintain healthy fish populations.

Improved Water Quality

Installation of nature-based solutions such as riparian buffers, rain gardens, or floodplain reconnections reduces the flow of pollutant laden sediment and stormwater into rivers and lakes.

Improved Public Safety

Reduction of flood risk and road closures due to debris clogging the structure or excessive volume overtopping the road.



Hancock Road/Churchill Brook Culvert Replacement , Pittsfield

Project contacts: RICHMOND: Danielle Fillio, admin@richmondma.org

WEST STOCKBRIDGE: Marie Ryan, admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

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