

# Stormwater News

Summer Edition: Protecting Water Resources this Summer



## Protecting our Streams and Creeks

Summer has arrived, ushering in longer days and warmer temperatures! Many of us prefer to beat the heat by engaging in activities in and around the water. Whether you enjoy swimming, kayaking, fishing, or simply appreciating the beauty of nature, clean water is essential for recreation and enjoyment. Here are some ways you can help maintain the cleanliness of our waterways this summer:



- **Minimize or eliminate the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.** These lawn chemicals are significant contributors to nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, leading to toxic runoff.
- **Opt for native plants in your landscaping.** Using native vegetation helps reduce stormwater runoff and requires less watering and fertilization compared to non-native species.
- **Install a rain barrel.** Positioned at the base of a downspout, a standard rain barrel can capture 55- 75 gallons of stormwater runoff from your rooftop, helping to mitigate flooding and erosion.

learn more at :

[www.perkiomenwatershed.org](http://www.perkiomenwatershed.org)

## Supporting Wildlife this Summer

Summer offers a wonderful opportunity to engage with nature and appreciate the beauty of local wildlife. However, as caretakers of our environment, it's important to take measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the wildlife who call our area home.

- **Dispose of trash responsibly.** Outdoor activities and picnics tend to produce litter, which can pose risks to wildlife if not handled appropriately. Always take your trash with you or utilize designated trash bins.
- **Look before you mow.** Rabbits often create nests in shallow areas of yards, so inspecting for nests prior to mowing can prevent accidental harm to baby rabbits. Turtles are also frequently run over by mowers. Taking a brief stroll around your yard before mowing can help avoid any mishaps.
- **Be aware of water sources.** Water is vital for wildlife, particularly during the hot summer months. Ensure bird baths and other water sources are clean and accessible, and refrain from using chemicals or pesticides nearby.

