

Protect Spa Creek & You Help Save the Chesapeake Bay

What goes into our storm drains flows directly into Spa Creek—*untreated*—and ultimately ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Anything splashed, poured, spilled or dumped on streets, alleys and gutters near Spa Creek is washed by rainwater into the storm drain system. Runoff from car oil, pet waste, fertilizers, sediment, and other pollutants that accumulate on area streets and parking lots have been found in Spa Creek. Below are simple steps you can take to prevent pollution and help make Spa Creek a fishable, swimmable creek.

The GOAL: ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR OFFICES, RETAIL & ORGANIZATIONS

Cleaning and Spill Prevention

- Know your property boundaries and where storm water from the property goes.
- Minimize the amount of litter entering the storm drain around your facility. Put waste in the trash and never into the gutter.
- Clean all outdoor areas with a broom and damp mop instead of a hose.
- Do not hose off vehicles, equipment, floor mats, filters, trash cans, etc. in areas that empty into to a storm drain.
- Ensure waste disposal drains are not connected to the storm drain system.
- Never dump wash water of any kind onto paved areas, alleys, sidewalks, or streets.
- Pressure wash pavement only when necessary. Avoid using acids, soaps, bleach, and solvents. Block storm drains, contain and collect wash water for sanitary sewer disposal.
- Avoid toxic materials to the extent possible. Store containers of liquids so they are unlikely to be knocked over and store away from storm drains. Cover stockpiled materials.
- Use dry cleanup methods for spills around building. Keep absorbent material like kitty litter, sawdust or sand on hand to contain spills. Never hose down a chemical spill.

Landscaping

- Plant native plants and use organic lawn products.
- Redirect downspouts toward landscaped areas.
- Install rain barrels and use rainwater for outdoor water use.
- Redesign parking and landscaped areas to include storm water management (i.e., rain gardens, collection areas for roof runoff, and shared parking).

Dumpster Management

- Locate dumpsters away from storm drains.
- Install a secondary containment system such as a berm around the dumpster if it must be located near storm drain.
- Ensure that dumpsters have tight fitting lids and dumpster plugs are in place.
- Keep dumpster area clean. Never place liquid waste or leaking garbage bags into a dumpster.
- Have dumpsters emptied frequently to prevent overfilling.

Recycling, Water Conservation, and Education

- Institute mandatory recycling and ensure that employees understand the value of recycling.
- Create an easily accessible system for separating recyclables, such as newspapers, cardboard, plastic and glass. Also, recycle spent fluids and batteries.
- Regularly check for and repair water leaks, control water usage to produce less wastewater. Post signs in restrooms encouraging water conservation.
- Educate employees on how to keep pollutants out of the storm drain system.
- When possible, label storm drains around your property “Chesapeake Bay Drainage” or “No Dumping” signs to deter disposal of wastewater of any kind.

Making these Best Management Practices part of your everyday procedures will help you “Go Green” and earn you a reputation as a business or organization that is concerned about the environment and the community.

This fact sheet is part of the Spa Creek Stewardship Program, an initiative of the Spa Creek Conservancy (SCC). The SCC is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Spa Creek watershed through education, preservation, mitigation and restoration.

Learn more at www.spacreek.org

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