



The Greenville Storm

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WINTER EDITION

A New Partnership Forged to Enhance Urban Conservation

The City of Greenville and Darke Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) are partnering up to provide residents and businesses in Greenville with information on storm water issues. The partnership will assist the City of Greenville in meeting their Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Darke SWCD's goals of implementing and educating the public on soil and water conservation practices within the Greenville Creek watershed. The City of Greenville covers about 18% of Greenville Creek B Watershed with the majority of that area being of impervious surfaces (concrete, asphalt, and gravel) which generates the majority of the storm water released into the Greenville Creek.



The new partnership will allow the Darke SWCD to reach out to urban residents and businesses in Greenville to effectively implement conservation practices to reduce storm water runoff. Storm water contains pollutants like oil, nutrients, and other chemicals that can degrade the local streams within a watershed. Reducing these pollutants or finding methods to filter them helps to improve water quality in the Greenville Creek. Many local students and residents use the Greenville Creek for canoeing, fishing, and educational purposes while the local wildlife depend on the stream for suitable habitat. As a community it is important we protect one of our prized possessions.

The Darke SWCD and the City of Greenville will provide a vast amount of education and workshops to enhance resident's knowledge on how to reduce the amount of storm water released into the Greenville Creek. Workshops will be available on rain gardens, rain barrels, lawn care & maintenance, and education on soil and water. The partnership also allows many urban residents and businesses to utilize the Darke SWCD's services along with the opportunity to have a guest speaker from the Darke SWCD and the City of Greenville to present information at their meetings or events. We are only a phone call away to assist you with a variety of technical and educational information. Greg McGlinch at the Darke SWCD, who can be reached at 937-548-1715 ext. 3, will be your contact for any storm water education questions. Questions that are regarding the Storm Water Tax fees please contact Chris Ward at 937-548-4930.

With the forging of the new partnership, the Darke SWCD and the City of Greenville are excited to work with local residents and businesses in implementing conservation practices that can preserve the pristine beauty of the Greenville Creek.

Development of the Greenville Storm

The newsletter was developed to inform residents of Greenville about storm water related issues and provide educational information to reduce the impacts of storm water to the Greenville Creek. We hope that the newsletter provides you with helpful information on saving money while protecting the local environment at the same time. Please do not hesitate to contact the Darke SWCD or City of Greenville if you have topics you would like discussed or information you would like to provide related to storm water.

WINTER TIME TIPS

Winter time in Ohio provides many challenges to residents in handling snow and reducing the chance of ice formation. There are many deicing products available that assist in melting or preventing ice from forming on pavement or sidewalks (impervious surfaces). Some of these products available are harmful to pets, vegetation, pavement, and even your automobiles. Selecting products that protect your investments and pets health can be beneficial and economical in the long run.

In the scope of storm water management, these chemical and salt deicers can degrade our local streams like the Greenville Creek and Stillwater River. Below are a few environmental friendly ways to control ice and snow around your home in an environmental friendly manner.



- ◆ Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing chemicals like rock salt
- ◆ Shovel snow onto non-paved surfaces such as landscaped and/or grassy areas. As the snow melts, it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.
- ◆ Sand and sawdust can be used as an alternative to commonly used salt products. These will not melt the ice, but are considered traction agents.
- ◆ Cracked corn or bird food has been suggested as an alternative traction agent because animals can eat it before it gets washed into the storm drains in the spring.
- ◆ After snowmelt, sweep up residues (including sand) to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams



Using the old fashioned approach of a shovel means eliminating ice and snow without harmful chemicals and with all the added benefits of physical exercise



Deicer Selection Information



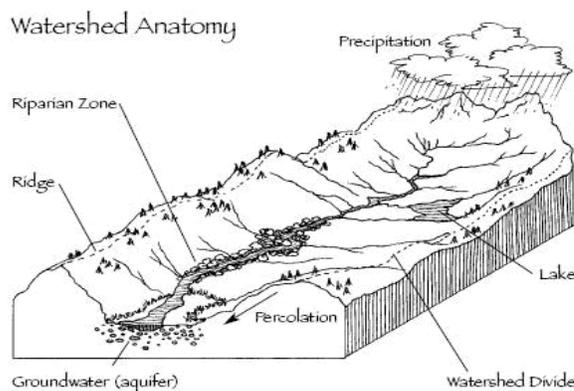
Deicers lower the melting point of ice on an impervious surface, such as concrete or asphalt. If a deicer is needed one may consider characteristics such as its corrosiveness to metal, damage to concrete, health affects to pets, damage to indoor surfaces, and damage to landscape or vegetation. Below is a description of each type of deicer available on the marketplace and their different characteristics:

- A. **Potassium acetate (KA):** It is a biodegradable liquid deicer with good ice melting potential, it can be used in smaller quantities, and is noncorrosive. If large quantities of this product get into the stream bodies, it can lead to low oxygen levels for aquatics.
- B. **Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA):** Is a biodegradable product which will not harm the environment if used sparingly. This is a non-corrosive product that is made out of dolomitic lime and acetic acid.
- C. **Calcium Chloride:** It produces heat as it melts the ice and is less harmful to vegetation. This product is corrosive to metals, can leave residue on carpets and tile, and attracts moisture from the air. Because you do not need as much of this product to make it work effectively, it is more environmentally sound.
- D. **Sodium Chloride:** Known as rock salt. This is the most common deicer product used because it is cheap and effective. The disadvantage is that it is corrosive to metal and damages vegetation.
- E. **Potassium chloride and urea:** These are both fertilizers and if overused can harm vegetation and aquatic life. Many individuals do not recommend these because they can damage concrete and affect vegetation.

If you need to use salts, the engineers at the University of Iowa recommend you use 0.08 of an ounce of salt per square foot. This is only a recommendation which provides a guideline to residents when applying salt products. In any winter event safety is the number one concern, but always look at different options available to reduce your costs and the impacts to the environment.

(Information from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mother Earth News, City of Mentor, OH)

What is a Watershed?



Picture by Susan Riedley

A watershed is all the land that drains into a body of water.

Whenever the City of Greenville receives precipitation, the majority of the water running off the streets, driveways, and lawns enters the Greenville Creek which, is a tributary to the Stillwater River.

Within each watershed there are complex systems of urban, rural, agriculture, and natural areas that have a variety of positive and negative impacts on water quality. It is important that as a community, (meaning everyone in a watershed), that we realize the impacts and how to reduce the negative affects to the environment.

Many urban residents have been implementing practices like rain barrels, rain gardens, green spaces, and a variety of conservation practices (that will be discussed in future newsletters) to reduce the negative impacts on water quality. Conservation practices like no-till, nutrient management, cover crops, and grass filtering areas have been implemented into the agricultural areas that help improve water quality. As a community in Darke county, we have been doing a satisfactory job in preserving and protecting our natural resources, but there is always room for improvement.

One comment to always remember is that “We all live down stream”!

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Future Events



- ◆ **April 7th, 2011: Lawn Care and Conservation Workshop**
Location: Darke Co Parks on 502 **Time:** 6:30-8PM **Cost:** Free
- ◆ **May 5th, 2011: Rain Barrel Workshop (Space is limited to 15 participants, call Darke SWCD to register)**
Location: Greenville Parks **Time:** 6-7:30PM **Cost:** \$50 (For rain barrel & materials)
Additional Rain Barrel Workshops will be provided if the demand exceeds workshop registration limits
- ◆ **June 3rd 2011: Darke County Educational Canoe Float**
- ◆ **Darke SWCD Tree Seedling Sales**
Tree sales run until March 18, 2011. Contact the Darke SWCD for details and pricing.



NOTE: Watch local papers, GPAT, and listen to the local radio for future updates on events. If you are interested or would like information on these events please contact the Darke Soil and Water Conservation District 937-548-1715 ext 3