

Stephens City Storm Water Management Program

To understand storm water management, you have to first understand what storm water is. Storm water is water flowing into a creek or river which then dumps into a waterway, which then makes its way to the ocean. Storm water is made up of rain or melting snow that flows from roofs, sidewalks, parking, and lots other hard surfaces. It collects soil, pet waste, salt pesticides, fertilizers, oil, grease, and litter. When it drains into nearby creeks and rivers it is not treated. Major pollutants of storm water are eroding soil, excessive nutrients, toxic chemicals, and excess storm water flow.

In a natural habitat, such as a woodland area, there is very little storm water runoff, but when you add residential and commercial development into the picture; trees and other vegetation are being cleared, which loosens up the soil making the soil easier to become runoff.

To reduce storm water runoff you can direct downspouts into grassy areas. You can also use porous surfaces for sidewalks and driveways. You can collect the storm water in rain barrels and use for irrigation. And finally you can landscape yards with rain gardens, grassy swales and filter stripes.

The Virginia Storm water Management Program has both erosion and sediment control along with a storm water management program. Poorly managed storm water can cause erosion and flooding. It may also carry excess nutrients, sediment, and other contaminants into the water ways.

All of Stephens City's storm water goes into Stephens Run, which then dumps into Crooked Run near the Warren County line. From there, it enters the Shenandoah River, just below Interstate 66 and flows north to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and meets with the Potomac River. The Potomac River flows past Washington, D.C. and then it dumps into the Chesapeake Bay near Point Lookout State Park. With the Chesapeake Bay already declining in "health," it is important to keep our waterways clean of contaminates and other debris.

If you encounter a large amount of sediment in the storm drain, please call the town office at (540) 869-3087. If you observe someone dumping materials down the storm drain, call 9-1-1 immediately. Town Officials and/or Emergency Personnel will inform the proper authorities to clean up the mess before it can do much harm.

Remember, Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!



REFERENCES:

City Of Winchester: <https://www.winchesterva.gov/go-green/stormwater>

Friends Of The Shenandoah River: <http://www.fosr.org>

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation:
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/other/deq/stormwater_management/stormwat.shtml