

## ADOPT-A-STREAM

Another way you can help preserve our streams is through DuPage County's Adopt-A-Stream program. Volunteer groups can work to keep our streams clean and attractive by removing debris and trash in and along our waterways, removing invasive vegetation and by monitoring the quality of the water.

DuPage County Stormwater Management will provide guidance to help coordinate your group's efforts and publically acknowledge groups for their continued service.

For more information, contact Jan Roehll by email at [jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org) or by phone at (630) 428-4500 ext. 121. The Conservation Foundation is a Stormwater Management partner in preserving and improving DuPage County's streams and rivers.



### DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

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## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## TO LEARN MORE

Visit us at: [www.dupageco.org/swm](http://www.dupageco.org/swm)

— or —

Call us: (630) 407-6673

### WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) are techniques, measures or structural controls used to manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. The goal of BMPs is to mimic the natural way water moved through an area before development by using design techniques to infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source. BMPs help reduce the amount of and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Please preserve our streams by utilizing these BMPs.

### QUICK FIXES

Rain barrels are an easy and inexpensive way to capture and store runoff falling from gutters. The stored water can later be used to water gardens and lawns. You can make your own barrels or purchase them locally with simple installation. Another easy fix is adding a rain garden to your property. This attractive BMP is effective in reducing the amount of runoff leaving your property. Rain gardens utilize native plants with deep roots to absorb runoff, filter pollutants and promote groundwater recharge. Even simple changes in habit can be a BMP. For example, using phosphate-free products when washing your car or fertilizing your lawn go a long way in reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff. Something as small as cleaning up after your pet and ensuring litter is properly disposed of can also help.

### CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS

Some BMPs require more involvement, but should be considered when building or renovating homes. For example, green roofs are an excellent way to decrease the amount of runoff leaving your property. Green roofs not only utilize water where it falls, but help prevent urban heat islands. Green roofs are a more expensive upgrade to your property, but they save money on heating and cooling costs. They can also be constructed on flat and sloped surfaces. A permeable paver is another BMP used as an alternative to traditional concrete or asphalt paving. The pavers decrease runoff by allowing water to seep into cracks that are filled with an aggregate. Remember, anything you can do to reduce pollutants in DuPage County streams helps everyone!

### REMEMBER...

- Use permeable pavers instead of asphalt or concrete.
- Plant rain gardens using native species.
- Mix composts into lawns and gardens to use for fertilizer.
- Install rain barrels and use it to water your plants and lawn.
- Don't use your hose as a broom.
- Build green vegetated roofs.
- Keep your vehicle regularly maintained and free of leakage.
- Use phosphate-free products outdoors.
- Put litter in its place.
- Use alternative deicing methods on your driveway in the winter.
- Clean up animal waste.
- Properly dispose of grass clippings and leaves.
- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Report illicit discharge into sewers and streams.

