



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

JANUARY 2021
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #43

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Happy New Year from the GLRC! Like many of you, we're excited to put 2020 behind us and are ready for 2021. We have some big plans this year and are looking forward to seeing them in action!

We've already gotten started on one of our major goals: developing a guidance manual to help local communities ensure their code of ordinances are more green-infrastructure-friendly. As you may recall from our last newsletter, we assisted Meridian Township by auditing their code for barriers to green infrastructure last fall. The forthcoming manual will build on these efforts by compiling boilerplate language to replace any identified barriers. Not only will this save our local communities time and effort, but we hope it will also provide regional consistency throughout the Greater Lansing area.

The same GLRC Ordinance Committee heading up the code audits is also exploring ways for the group to support area communities in banning Coal-Tar Seal Coating within their jurisdictions. The polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) within these products are a growing concern as a carcinogen and stormwater pollutant, prompting states and individual communities throughout the country (like our own Meridian Township) to prohibit their use.

We'll also continue to expand on our digital public education efforts throughout the ongoing pandemic. Keep an eye on MyWatersheds.org for more information as these and other projects continue to develop!

2021 CALENDAR CONTEST

The GLRC's 2021 Dog Photo Calendar Contest has been published! Twelve dogs were chosen as monthly features and will win a copy of the calendar and a gift certificate to a pet supply store.

Visit www.MyWatersheds.org/DogContest to learn more and prepare for next year's contest!



SAVE THE DATES!

Quiet Adventures Symposium: February 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, and 27th

The Quiet Adventures Symposium is moving online for 2021. The event will be held online over 5 days, beginning on February 16th with a grand finale on the 27th.

More information on the symposium, daily program schedules, and registration can be found at: www.quietwatersociety.org/virtual_symposium.php.

REGISTRATION OPEN

5-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

*Biking • Camping • Canoeing •
Hiking • Kayaking*

QASadventures.org

40+
Presentations

Only \$10

Michigan State University Science Festival: April 1st-30th, 2021

The MSU Science Festival is a multi-day series of events that highlight the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (a.k.a. STEAM). Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 Festival will be held online with nearly 200 live virtual presentations and activities for all ages. The Festival schedule will be released in February.

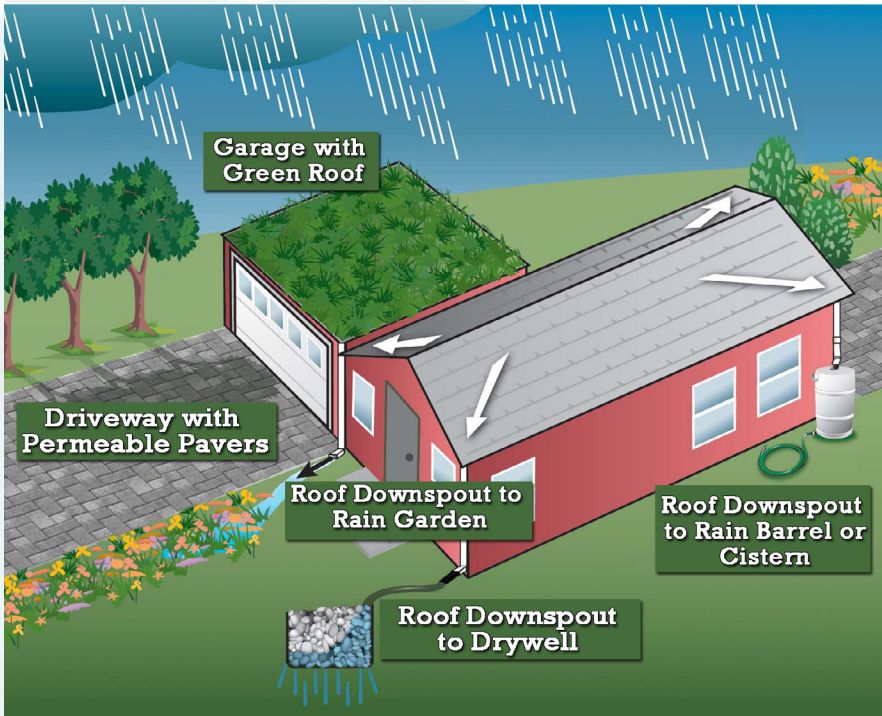
More information on the Festival can be found at www.sciencefestival.msu.edu.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT HOME

Shake that winter chill by dreaming up some fun warm weather home projects! If you’ve ever been interested in rain gardens, rain barrels, and other green infrastructure practices, now is a great time to learn more and start planning for spring.

Green stormwater infrastructure (or GSI) refers to a variety of stormwater control methods that use vegetation, soils, and other practices to manage runoff by mimicking the natural water cycle.

Why does this matter? Think about how the area you live looked before settlement. When rainwater fell on the natural landscape, plants and soils collected and absorbed much of the water. But now, when rainwater falls on impervious surfaces like parking lots, driveways and rooftops, the water flows off and into stormdrains and drainage ditches. Pollutants such as pet waste, chemical fertilizers and leaking motor oil are swept up with the runoff that eventually discharges into our rivers, lakes and streams without under going any treatment.



Green infrastructure imitates natural landscapes by capturing excess runoff on site, reducing runoff volumes and filtering out pollutants that would otherwise enter and impact our surface water resources. For example, rain gardens and other bioretention practices are designed to receive drainage in beds of deep rooted native plants that absorb and filter runoff.

Once you realize the amount of runoff produced by an average household, it’s easy to see the potential impact of widespread GSI implementation. To estimate the amount of stormwater runoff your roof produces in a 1-inch rain event, take the square footage of your roof and multiply it by 623, then divide that number by 1,000. Michigan’s average yearly precipitation is 32 inches, meaning a 2,000 square foot home produces nearly 40,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each year! Driveways and decks add even more. By capturing that runoff in a rain garden, you’re keeping potential pollutants out of our waterways.

Visit www.mywatersheds.org/rain-garden-101 to learn more about how to plan and install your own!

SIX TIPS TO STAY STORMWATER SMART IN THE SNOW



SHOVEL

Shovel snow onto vegetated areas. Grass and plants will act as a natural filter as the snow melts, reducing runoff into stormdrains that lead directly to rivers and streams.

PLAN AHEAD

Shovel and scrape trafficked areas early and often. De-icers work best when there is only a thin layer to remove.

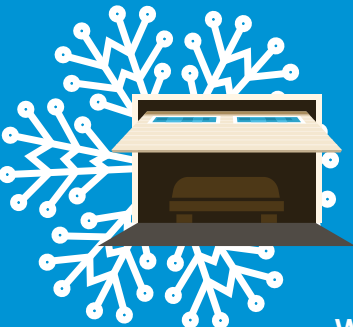


USE LESS

A little bit of salt goes a long way! Apply de-icers sparingly and remove slush once the snow melts to prevent refreezing.

RECYCLE

Save money by sweeping or vacuuming salt solids for re-use after the storm!



STORE

Practice good housekeeping by storing de-icers under a roof or other cover to minimize polluted runoff.

WINTERIZE

Winterize your vehicles to ensure there are no leaks. Avoid washing the car in the driveway to keep dirty water out of the storm sewer.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

February 4th, 2021

8:30am

Zoom Videoconference

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

April 15th, 2021

8:30am

*Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

June 3rd, 2021

8:30am

*Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

GLRC Full Committee Meeting

June 3th, 2021

9:00am

*Large Conference Room
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911

*Meetings may be held via Zoom if necessary to accomodate COVID-19 mitigation measures. Visit www.MyWatersheds.org for updates regarding meeting cancellations, postponements, or location changes.

GLRC Members:

Clinton County
Clinton County Road Comm.
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
Eaton County
City of Grand Ledge

Ingham County
Lansing Charter Township
Lansing School District
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Meridian Charter Township
Michigan State University
Waverly Community Schools

Administrative Support:



TRI-COUNTY
regional planning commission

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