



FOCUS Newsletter

Love Your Landscape, Be a Water(shed) Champion



There have been rumors going around for years that rain barrels and water saving is (or was) illegal. In some states, mostly out west, there have been restrictions, but thankfully, here in Ohio, that rumor is just an old wives' tail. The truth is, rainwater harvesting is not illegal. There are no federal or state laws that restrict rainwater collection and residents (and businesses too!) can do so freely.

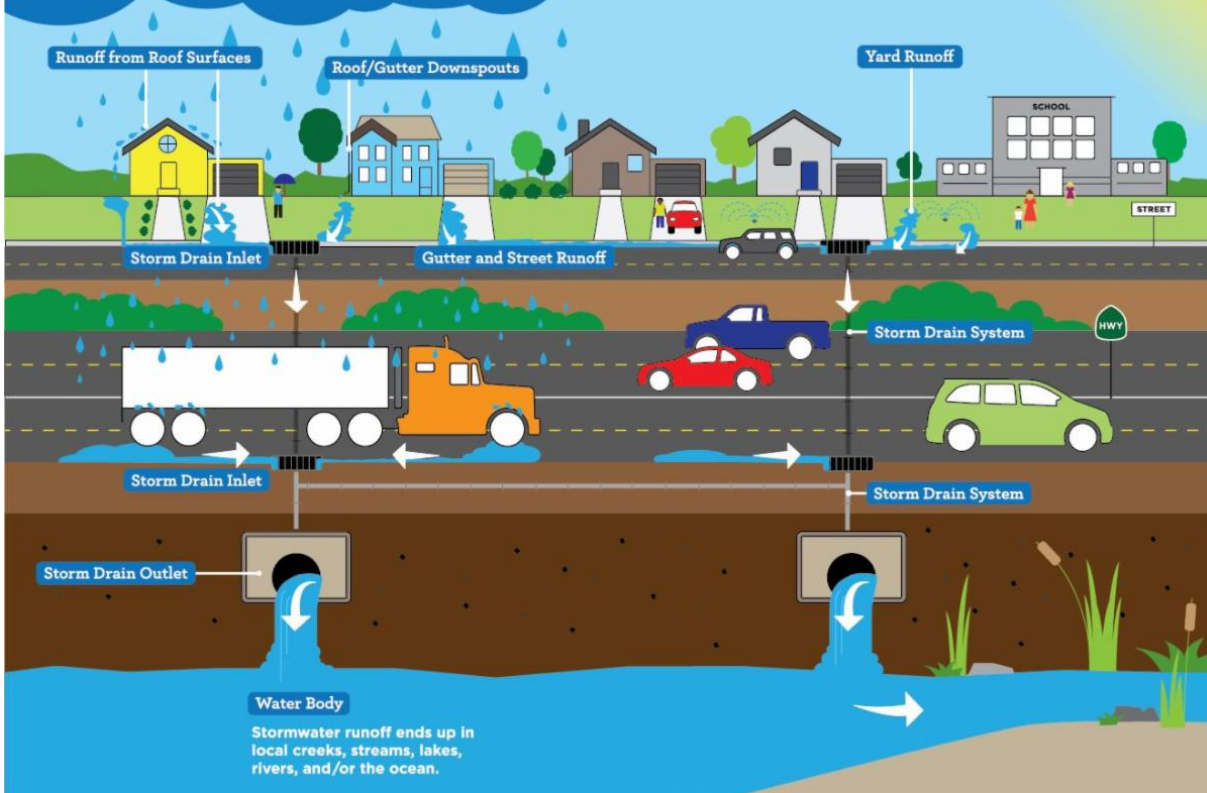
In fact, implementing rain and water saving practices in your own backyard helps with the major issue we face in urban environments, stormwater runoff.

While it is not against the law to collect rain water, there may be zoning or HOA restrictions on rain barrels and their location. It's always best to check with your local administration before purchasing.

Stormwater What?

When it rains, water can't soak into impervious surfaces like driveways, roads, or rooftops. It also has a hard time soaking into Ohio clay soil. Instead, it runs across impermeable surfaces and ends up surging into a storm drain. Along the way, runoff picks up nutrients, dirt, fertilizer, bacteria, pesticides, oil, and garbage, taking it all along for a ride until it reaches the final destination: a local river or stream near you.

Stormwater Runoff



Be a Water(shed) Champion

Saving water is in the best interest of you, your yard, our streams, soils and ecosystems, and it doesn't have to be hard or time consuming. Many of the most effective things you can do are simple and easy. Here are a few suggestions:

- Rain Barrels - A great introductory practice to reduce runoff is to capture rain water with rain barrels or cisterns. They can be fancy or pretty simple, but each has the same result: catching rain water and decreasing the amount of stormwater running off your property. Rain water also provides multiple benefits to create healthy plants and soil. Rainwater is usually "soft", meaning it has less salt and minerals than tap water. Using rainwater to water your garden or indoor plants helps lower your water usage.
- Smart Hose Faucet Timer- Another way to save on water? Install a smart hose faucet timer. Smart devices collect online weather data to optimize water usage. No more manual watering, or forgetting the hose is on hours later. It's so smart it knows to turn off automatic watering after a large rain event. Smart hose faucet timers help keep your water costs down by giving you control over the amount of water you use.
- Water the Soil, Not the Leaves- Water at the root of plants to keep evaporation to a minimum. You'll end up using less water in the long run.
- Don't "Overwater"- Sounds simple right? But it can be easy to do. Especially in the height of the summer heat.
- Water Early- Watering your plants in the early

a.m. is best. It gives them a stash of water to get through the day's heat and the water has a chance to soak into the roots instead of evaporating in the heat. (If you're a Del-Co customer, you can find their [voluntary lawn watering restrictions](#) online).



So, go ahead and be a water(shed) champion. Conserve, save, and reuse water sources on your property. Your plants, lawn and local waterways will thank you and you'll reap the benefits.

Know Your Watershed

In Delaware County, we have three main watersheds: Upper Scioto River, Olentangy River, and Big Walnut Creek. Our office is located in the Olentangy River watershed, meaning our stormdrains drain to rivers and creeks that flow within that watershed.

Here is why implementing the suggestions above are important. It's all connected. Our watershed, your watershed, local rivers, lakes, wetlands, even any land like parks, farms, forests, or the land your home is on. We are connected to one another, which makes learning more about what a watershed is and your own watershed utterly important. Everything we do on our own land affects all our watersheds and overall quality of life.

Want to learn more about the local watershed in which you live? Visit the EPA's "How's My Waterway" website and search your address.

mywaterway.epa.gov



Del-Aware Water Rebate Program

Collect Rain

Save Water

Reduce Runoff

Bank \$50

*Up to \$50. Restrictions Apply



Del-Co Water and Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District (Delaware SWCD) have teamed up to launch the Del-Aware Water Conservation Rebate Program. The program teaches you important water saving and conservation practices, and then offers a reimbursement up to \$50 on the purchase of a water conservation device that best suits your needs. The program currently offers a rebate on your choice of a hose faucet timer, soil moisture sensor, sprinkler system controller or rain barrel with diverter.

<https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/del-aware-water-rebate-program/>



In the Press

[Addressing Waterlogged Properties](#)
Delaware Gazette



Employee News

Kristin Hilson recently joined the team here at Delaware Soil and Water as the new Communications & Outreach Coordinator. She will be focused on

June Announcements

[June is National Dairy Month](#)

[Cicadas make return in Delaware County](#)

keeping our social media channels and website updated with district news and events, attending outreach events with local municipalities, and coordinating educational workshops or classes for the public. Don't want to miss any news? Sign up for our general [District News & Updates email list!](#)

Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District

557 Sunbury Rd # A
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 368-1921

Contact
Us

