HELP KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!

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 publicly acknowledge groups for their continued service.

For more information, contact Jan Roehll by email at jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org or by phone at (630) 428-4500 ext. 121.
**Natural Lawn Care**

Natural lawn care practices can begin in the spring with an inexpensive soil test to determine what—if any—nutrients your lawn needs. In addition, spring is the time to get in the habit of allowing your grass to grow 3 inches before mowing. This improves its health by allowing roots to grow longer, which also helps to remove pollutants from runoff. Also, remember—do not dump your lawn clippings into waterways!

**Green Infrastructure**

Spring is also an excellent time to begin thinking about growing gardens, specifically rain gardens with deep-rooted native plants to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff. Rainwater harvesting is also a popular technique to capture and store stormwater for later use, such as lawn irrigation. This can be accomplished with a simple rain barrel or an intricate underground system.

**IN THE SPRING**

- Test your soil to know what nutrients it needs
- Allow grass to grow 3 inches before mowing
- Remove only 1/3 of the leaf blade when mowing
- Plant a rain garden using native plants
- Use a rain barrel or larger harvesting system to capture and reuse rainwater

**IN THE SUMMER**

- Use compost instead of fertilizer when necessary
- Hand pull or spot spray weeds
- Begin composting lawn clippings, leaves and other natural materials
- Use permeable pavers or asphalt when redoing driveways
- Avoid coal tar-based sealants on driveways

**Spring BMPs**

*Spring is a time to begin thinking about lawn care and home improvement projects. If done properly, your normal routines and maintenance can actually improve the quality of DuPage County waterways by minimizing pollutants in stormwater runoff.*

**Summer BMPs**

*Water use skyrockets in the summer—but with good reason. People take pride in their lawns and want them to look pristine during summer months. It’s important to begin a natural lawn care regimen in the spring because your good habits will carry into summer.*