

Stream Line

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Storm Water Runoff Named Primary Pollution Source

A recent article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette quoted executive director of the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, Delia Haak's assertion that the biggest source of pollution is no longer from factories or improper piping of household waste, but can be traced instead to excess rainwater carrying chemicals, contaminants and trash off hard surfaces like streets and buildings, and delivering them directly into the water supply.

Haak further stated that addressing the challenge of storm water runoff could greatly reduce pollution levels. Recent testing shows a drop in the level of phosphorus in the Illinois River, indicating that progress is being made in improving water quality coming from other sources. The IRWP is now actively pursuing programs to increase awareness of rainwater runoff. One measure is the creation of rain gardens throughout their

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River Clean-ups Succeed Despite Weather, Drought

Chilly weather impacted turnout, but the April Earth Day clean-up in Madison County still yielded 52 assorted tires, and enough debris to fill a trailer. Helpful landowners allowed the small but dedicated band to empty boats for later pick-up, freeing up space for

more trash. The June Clean-up, hampered by low water, focused on public and private access areas. With a larger force and help from the Boy Scouts, 35 tires and approximately 4-1/2 cubic yards of trash were removed. Kudos to Ray Warren and all who took part.



Testing Program Results

Thanks to our community sponsors, water samples continue to be collected and sent to a lab at the U of A for evaluation. We are particularly grateful to Tyson's Foods of Berryville for their on-going support. Thanks also to Ray Warren and Kyle Hunnicutt for gathering samples. Sam Davis compiles the data and keeps records of the testing program results.

Rain Garden Projects Proposed

Drought conditions have lessened the impact of runoff in past months, but also highlight our dependence on clean, abundant water sources. Because we live in an area of steep hills and deep hollows, we are all aware of the erosive damage of running water. Just as the Mill Creek Restoration Project shows how pools and drops can slow down the flow and heal eroded ground, so, too, can rain gardens. This is a measure any property owner can take to deal with erosion issues while helping reduce the level of contaminants in our rivers and streams. Rain gardens are places where runoff can be captured and held just long enough to percolate more deeply into the ground.

The KRWP wants to assist in creating several rain garden demonstration projects in the county. They hope to partner with other groups who would like to learn more about constructing and choosing plantings to create attractive, functional rain gardens. If you want to know more, or would consider participating in a hands-on installation please contact Lin Wellford 870 438-5537

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Note of Thanks

To all who bought raffle tickets, the kayak, made possible by Ozark Mountain Trading Co., was won by Butch Hanby. A tip of our paddles to Kings River Rapids LLC for allowing us to use their property for the after-party, to Drs. Tina Cone and Alan Hunnicutt for supplying food for the cook-out following the June clean-up. and to all the businesses and individuals who contributed door prizes and drawings won by clean-up participants.

Storm Water Cont.

watershed, designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of this relatively simple, low-tech solution that allows excess water to settle in shallow depressions that blend in with the landscape, yet allow the water to drain slowly into the ground rather than racing downhill, taking soil and pollutants with it.

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