Managing Stormwater in Allenstown

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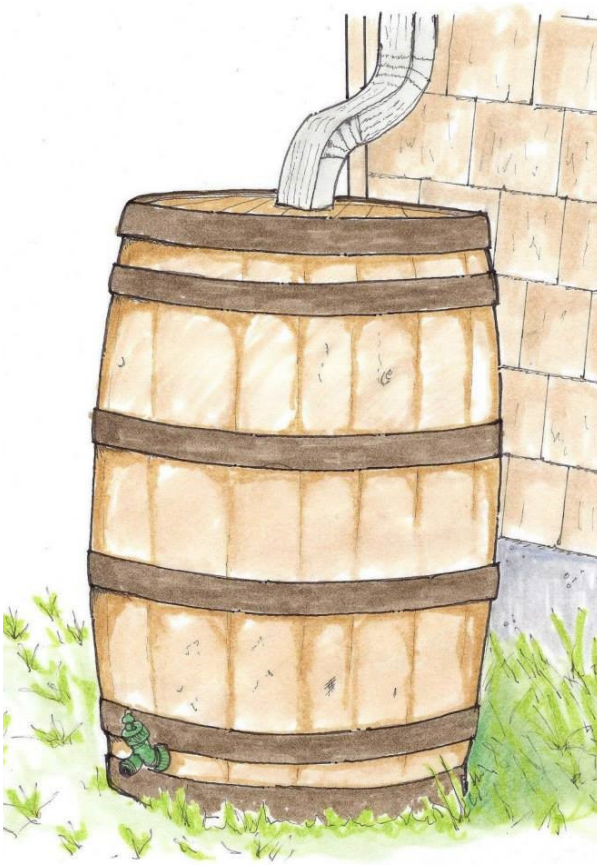
Stormwater, or runoff, is the water that flows as a result of rain or snowmelt. Stormwater travels across pavement and other surfaces collecting sediment, chemicals, and pollutants, including but not limited to motor oil, gasoline, lawn chemicals, pet waste, and deicing chemicals. It can carry these harmful pollutants directly into waterways, contaminating water used for drinking, recreation, and for local wildlife.

Residents of Allenstown enjoy the benefits of the town's location along the Merrimack and Suncook Rivers and it is of the utmost importance to maintain the quality of these waters to the highest standards. There are many steps that the town and residents can take to protect waterways and drinking water. This flyer is just one in a series about how residents and business owners can do their part. Read on to learn more.

Managing Stormwater with Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development (LID) includes a variety of practices that mimic or preserve natural drainage processes to manage stormwater. LID practices typically retain rain water and encourage it to soak into the ground rather than allowing it to run off into ditches and storm drains where it would otherwise contribute to flooding and pollution problems. They can be added at any phase of development at various budget levels. Examples of LID include:

- Rain Barrel & Cistern
- Green Roof
- Rain Garden
- Permeable/Pervious Pavement
- Rainwater Catchment
- Vegetative Walls
- Bioswales
- Infiltration Trench
- Ribbon Curbs



Sketch of a rain barrel, an example of rainwater harvesting. Photo from Soak Up The Rain New Hampshire

What are the benefits of Low Impact Development?

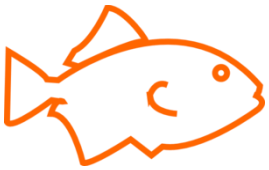
Improve water quality of local waters due to reduced polluted runoff

Reduce intensity of flooding by reducing volume and speed of runoff

Improved groundwater recharge by retaining more water onsite

Save money and energy by utilizing tree shading and reducing water treatment costs

Increased property values with amenities such as additional greenery and wildlife



Restore and support aquatic life by reducing runoff and erosion

Enhance neighborhood beauty and quality of life of residents

Easily installed in all phases of construction, redevelopment, and retrofitting

Reduced cost of infrastructure and landscape maintenance

Smaller overall site disturbance than traditional stormwater infrastructure

Additional Resources:

Think Blue Suncook
http://thinkbluesuncook.org/

US EPA Urban Runoff: Low Impact Development
https://www.epa.gov/nps/urban-runoff-low-impact-development

NH-MS4 Regional Stormwater Coalitions
https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-ms4/

Town of Allenstown, New Hampshire
https://www.allenstownnh.gov/