



Lake Star Notes

City of Norfolk
Department of Utilities

Summer 2017

Dear Lake Star Resident:

If your house is like most in the area, during a rain storm, the water runs out the downspout, across your yard, where it picks up soil, fertilizer and pesticides. This water then flows into the street, down the storm drain or directly into a waterbody, and into a lake, river or the Chesapeake Bay.

By building a rain garden, you can divert the water into an attractive planting bed that works like a sponge and natural filter to clean the water and let it percolate slowly into the surrounding soil.

See page 2 for some information on how you can build a rain garden and beautify your yard and protect our waterways.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (757) 441-5678 or by email at david.rosenthal@norfolk.gov.

David S. Rosenthal, CLM
Reservoir Manager

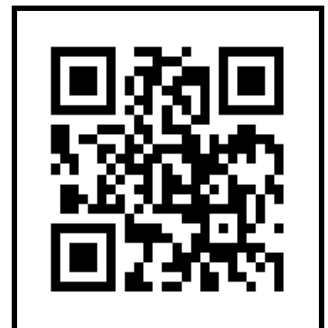


For More Information

Become a Lake Star
www.norfolk.gov/LSH

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Scan with your mobile device
for more information

Keep it clean....

We all like to keep our property looking nice. This ranges from mowing and trimming the grass, trimming the bushes and keeping everything neat and clean. Sometimes we're in a hurry and don't pick up the grass that is left on the sidewalk or got blown into the street. However, the next time it rains, this grass could end up in the storm drain. Grass in the storm drain could clog the pipe, leading to street flooding. If it does make it through the pipe, the grass will end up in one of our local waterways, including the drinking water reservoirs, which can lead to filling in of the reservoir and algae growth.

In Norfolk, there are over 3,000 residential properties in the Lake Whitehurst watershed. One property can generate as much as 2-3 gallons of grass clippings if not swept up. If even half of the properties don't remove the grass clippings from the sidewalks and streets, that's over 6,000 gallons of grass going into the storm drains and lakes. The size of the bags most commonly used for grass collection are about 30 gallons, so that's over 200 bags.



Water Facts

Ninety-seven percent of the water on Earth is salt water; the water found in the Earth's lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, swamps, etc. accounts for only 0.3 percent of the world's fresh water. The rest is trapped in glaciers or is in the ground.

PROTECT IT!



Rain Gardens—What are they and why create one

A rain garden is a landscaped area specially designed to collect rainfall and storm water runoff. You can also channel the runoff from your roof drains through a rain garden. The plants and soil in the rain garden clean pollutants from the water as it seeps into the ground and evaporates back into the atmosphere. For a rain garden to work, plants must be selected, installed, and maintained properly.

The benefits of rain gardens include:

- Filter runoff pollution
- Recharge local groundwater
- Improve water quality
- Protect local waterways
- Remove standing water in your yard
- Conserve water
- Reduce potential of home flooding
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Enhance sidewalk appeal
- Provide habitat for birds and insects

Rain gardens should have both flood and drought tolerant native plants, grasses and trees. A top layer of mulch will keep the weeds out and improve water absorption and filtration.

Sketch out your own garden design and plant placement, or work with a professional landscaper to create a successful design. Consider asking a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (<https://cblpro.org/>) for assistance.

Native Rain Garden Plants and Installation Instructions—<https://goo.gl/VpWzCy>

Rain Garden Landscape Plans—<https://goo.gl/DPNqCi>

Rain Garden Technical Guide—<https://goo.gl/uqcB4k>

Upcoming Events

Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Through education outreach, interactive programs and community service KNB is growing environmental awareness. [KeepNorfolkBeautiful](#)

Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Norfolk Botanical Garden offers a wide variety of programs and events—<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

Ask HRGreen

Find local activities that will help improve water quality and your neighborhood—<http://askhrgreen.org/calendar/>.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For more information on regional events, visit the CBF Calendar at <http://www.cbf.org/events/calendar>.

Lynnhaven River NOW

Group committed to restoring the Lynnhaven River calendar of events—<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/events-calendar/>.

Keep Virginia Beach Beautiful

Working together to provide volunteer opportunities for Virginia Beach residents—[VBCleanCommunity](#)

