

# Green TEAM

quarterly newsletter



## In this issue

a greener city | making a splash | our harpeth watershed | highlights & events

SUMMER 2019

## a greener city



**What is green infrastructure?** As defined by the EPA, "green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits". As opposed to grey infrastructure (storm drains and underground pipes) that are designed to send stormwater to an offsite location, green infrastructure collects and treats stormwater at its source, promoting infiltration, plant uptake, and other elements to reclaim the natural water processes in an urban landscape.



## green infrastructure spotlight!

Rain gardens are depressed landscaping beds that capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, or parking lots.

The soil media in rain gardens is engineered to maximize infiltration, typically consisting of a sandy soil.

They are planted with specially selected native plants to encourage establishment, hardiness, and attracting local pollinators!

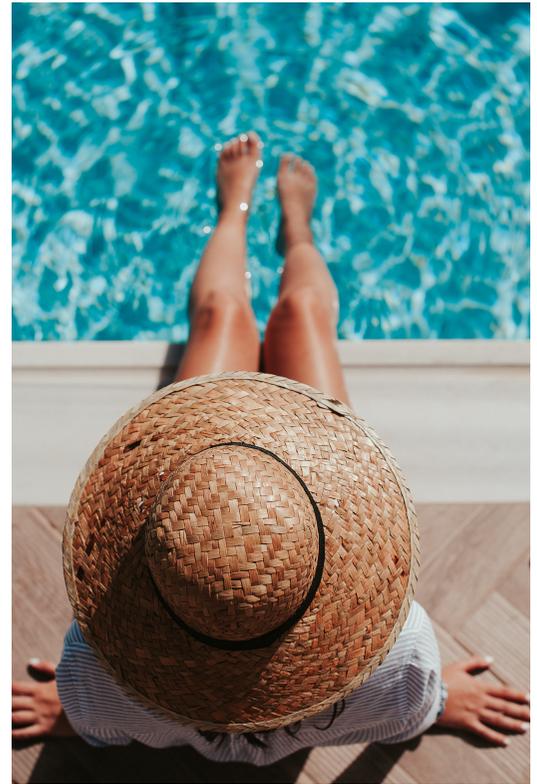
Due to soil media filtration and plant uptake, rain gardens are effective at removing several pollutants found in stormwater runoff!



see stormwater pollution? click [HERE](#) to report!



**It's summer!!** Grab your towel, lather on your sunscreen, and put on your favorite bathing suit... it's time to go soak up some sun! There is nothing better than taking a refreshing dip in the pool during a summer's heat, and if you are a homeowner or manager responsible for one, keeping your poolwater sparkling clean requires routine maintenance such as leaf/bug removal, chemical applications, filter back washing, and end-of-the-year draining.



When maintaining your swimming pool this year, remember that improperly discharged or emptied poolwater is a source of stormwater pollution. The salt and chlorine can cause stressful and dangerous conditions for fish and other aquatic life.

***"I backwash my filters and drain the poolwater into the City storm drain on my street, how can that impact aquatic life?"***

**Good question!** The City of Franklin is a MS4, which stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. In short, this means that our stormwater is conveyed through a system of ditches and underground infrastructure until discharged directly into local streams and rivers. **Stormwater is not sent to a treatment facility like wastewater!** Therefore, anything that is discarded, dumped, or poured down a storm drain will eventually make its way to the Harpeth River and its tributaries. To protect our fish, aquatic life, and local water quality, keep the following best management practices in mind so you can enjoy both a pristine swimming pool and Harpeth River!

- Before draining a chlorinated pool, let the poolwater stand untreated for at least seven (7) days to allow the chlorine to dissipate
- Test the pH of the water; poolwater should be close to a pH of 7 before discharging
- Water should be pumped to a grassy area far away from infrastructure or a stream, and allow it to flow overland for at least 200 feet
- If draining a saltwater pool, poolwater should be sent to a public sanitary sewer system through a household drain (bathtub, sink, floor drain). **Contact Water Management at 615-794-4554 prior, to let them know that you are discharging into their system!**



**The Harpeth River Watershed** is part of the Cumberland River Basin in Middle Tennessee and includes parts of Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Hickman, Rutherford, and Williamson Counties. Our watershed is about 860 square miles and is one of the major tributaries of the Cumberland River. The Harpeth River Watershed includes around 1,100 stream miles, with the Harpeth River about 115 miles itself.



## The Harpeth River Watershed is *filled with biodiversity!*

Currently there are 49 documented rare plants and animal species in our watershed. Of these rare species, there are three fish, three snail, two mussel, and one crustacean species listed as endangered or threatened.



**Shortfinger Crayfish**  
RARE, CURRENTLY STABLE



**Dromedary pearly mussel**  
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



**Tippecanoe darter fish**  
NEAR THREATENED

The Harpeth River flows through the heart of downtown Franklin and is enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. The greatest threat to our watershed is rapid urbanization and development, converting meadows and forests into roads, offices, subdivisions, and parking lots. Everyone has a role in water pollution, which means we also have a role in pollution solution!

Visit Stormwater Management's [website](#) to learn how you can protect our watershed and minimize household stormwater pollution or organize a volunteer event.





Phew! **Stormwater Management** has been busy these past few months! We have been lucky enough to have been a part of a number of wonderful volunteer and public education events.

- Dozens of volunteers came together on March 23rd to help us plant 1,000 tree seedlings along the Harpeth River at Harlinsdale Farm for the nationwide event **250K Tree Day**
- Stormwater staff was a part of **Kids Art Festival**, and hundreds of children stopped by our booth to paint mini flower pots and take home milkweed flower seeds! Families also stopped by our booth during the City's annual **Arbor Day Celebration** to create seed bombs filled with native wildflower seeds.
- Students from **Poplar Grove Elementary** celebrated Earth Month by participating in Stormwater Management's 'Only Rain Down the Drain' poster contest. We received submissions from several talented students, and three winners were chosen!
- In our last newsletter we covered **Keep Williamson Beautiful's** efforts to restore Dry Branch Wetland. They were able to finish their first leg of this restoration by replanting a segment of the wetland with hundreds of native plants. Great job, volunteers!





## How embarrassing!

We don't have anything on our upcoming schedule! While Stormwater staff has been busy beating the heat, we would rather be busy helping to plan some summer volunteer activities!

Contact Stormwater Management to organize a stream cleanup, watershed event, or give an educational presentation to your volunteer group, community board meeting, or work seminar!



If you, your family, local business, or community are interested in volunteering or organizing an event for your watershed please contact Stormwater Management

**(615)791-3218**

or email Brittani Perez

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thank you!

That's all for our summer issue. Stay updated for our fall newsletter in **September!**

