



*A rain barrel catches roof runoff and stores the rainwater for future use*

### THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE POLLUTED RUNOFF IS FOR EACH OF US TO DO OUR PART:

- » Reduce the amount of impermeable surfaces, such as driveways and walkways
- » Install rain gardens so that rain can soak into the ground
- » Replace grass with native shrubs and trees
- » Eliminate or reduce the amount of fertilizer or herbicides we use on our lawns
- » Dispose of trash and dog wastes properly
- » Support investments in capital projects to reduce polluted runoff

### HARRISONBURG STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| » Dale Chestnut | » William Latham                                    |
| » Kathy Holm    | » Daniel Michael                                    |
| » William Jones | » JM Snell  |
| » Eldon Kurtz   | » Ted Byrd, Ex-officio, City Council Representative |



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# Polluted Runoff

A local problem requiring a local solution  
and promising local benefits



*A beautiful rain garden enhances a church lawn*

### WHAT IS POLLUTED RUNOFF?

Polluted runoff is untreated rainwater and snowmelt flowing across rooftops, streets, and parking lots that picks up pet waste, dirt, fertilizers, chemicals, and oil, carrying them straight into our creeks and streams.

### WHY IS POLLUTED RUNOFF SUCH A STORMY ISSUE?

We have a lot of polluted runoff because our cities and suburbs have so many buildings, roads, and sidewalks and not enough open space where water can soak into the ground. Polluted runoff threatens our drinking water and causes fish advisories. Too much runoff also floods our streets and homes.



## Harrisonburg has a plan to clean up our local streams

## We know how to reduce polluted runoff



*before*



*after*



*before*



*after*

### WHAT WOULD THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE PAY FOR?

If approved, the stormwater utility fee will be dedicated to projects that manage and reduce polluted runoff. The fees collected will support:

- » Development of a city-wide plan to identify, select, and prioritize capital projects to manage stormwater, reduce pollution, and protect our drinking water sources,
- » Design and construction of stormwater capital projects, including retrofits and community greening projects to reduce pollution and improve water quality,
- » Coordination of pollution reduction efforts including staff training, pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices for municipal operations, pollution detection and elimination program, and public education and outreach, and
- » Maintenance and operation of city-owned stormwater drainage and stormwater management facilities.

### WE CAN FIX IT

Creating stream buffers by planting trees and native shrubs, increasing green space to filter runoff, and updating or improving stormwater management systems are real solutions to polluted runoff which are proven to work and be cost-effective.

### LOCAL FEES FUND LOCAL PROJECTS

1,400 communities across 39 states and the District of Columbia have adopted fees. Average residential fees in Virginia are:

- » Newport News (\$96.00/yr)
- » Hampton (\$76.92/ year)
- » Charlottesville (\$57.60/ year)
- » Lynchburg (\$48.00/ year)

### WHAT'S GOOD FOR WATER IS GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY

Freshwater fishing in Virginia is worth over a billion dollars every year. NOAA reports that the commercial seafood industry in Maryland and Virginia contributed \$3.39 billion in sales, \$890 million in income, and almost 34,000 jobs to the local economy.