

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association Programs

The Mission of the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) is to involve citizens in the restoration and protection of the Nine Mile Run watershed through education, advocacy, and stewardship programs. Contact NMRWA at 412-371-8779 or rainbarrels@ninemilerun.org or visit www.ninemilerun.org.

Education and Outreach

We host a variety of activities for citizens to learn about watershed health and how they can participate in making positive change. Activities include walking tours, bike rides, workshops and community events. See our website for a current calendar of our upcoming events.

GreenLinks

The GreenLinks program helps Wilkinsburg community members improve their neighborhood by planting street trees, restoring a vacant lot or improving a neighborhood park. Contact NMRWA for an application for assistance with tools, plant materials and training.

Urban EcoStewards

This collaborative program increases public awareness of urban ecology and biodiversity and involves citizens in stewardship of the urban landscape. Urban EcoStewards are citizens trained to monitor and maintain existing green spaces in the region. Training includes invasive plant identification and control, as well as site assessment and data collection methods.

3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc.

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program is committed to improving the quality of Allegheny County's water resources by helping communities address the issues of stormwater and untreated sewage overflowing into the region's waterways. To promote the most cost-effective, long-term, sustainable solutions, the nonprofit organization tests sewer technology, provides financial grants, educates the public and advocates inter-municipal partnerships. Contact Joan Blaustein at 412-578-8375 or jblaustein@achd.net or visit www.3riverswetweather.org.

Regional Programs

River Sweep

River Sweep is the largest organized volunteer river clean-up effort in the country, winding through Pennsylvania and seven other states – more than 2,400 miles of shoreline. River Sweep sponsors an annual event to clean up the banks of area waterways, including the Allegheny, Beaver, Conemaugh, Ohio and Monongahela rivers. Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and several corporations, and supported by thousands of Pittsburgh volunteers. Contact the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 412-442-4182.

Storm Drain Stenciling

The Storm Drain Stenciling Program reminds citizens about the critical connection between storm drains and local waterways by stenciling drains throughout Allegheny County with the simple message, "Don't Dump! Protect your Water." Contact Twila Simmons at ALCOSAN at 412-732-8045 or twila.simmons@ALCOSAN.org.

PA Cleanways of Allegheny County

This nonprofit organization helps people take action against illegal dumping and littering in their communities. Contact 412-322-6681 or pacw.ac@verizon.net or visit www.pacleanways.org.

Pennsylvania Resources Council

PRC was established in 1939 and is the Commonwealth's oldest citizen action environmental organization. The strength of PRC's programs is derived from its continuing efforts to bring people, businesses, and government together to prevent and solve environmental problems. Visit www.prc.org.

PRC Programs include:

Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force

This multi-stakeholder volunteer group hosts collection events and distributes educational materials on proper HHW disposal methods. HHW management at home keeps unwanted, unneeded or unusable household cleaners, paints and other chemicals from entering the street sewers and contaminating streams and area waterways. For more information call 412-488-7452 or go to www.swpahhw.org.

Collections for Hard-To-Dispose Items

PRC hosts one-day collection events for items difficult to recycle or dispose, including appliances, tires, latex paint, electronics, propane tanks, used furniture and other materials. All materials collected at PRC events are recycled, refurbished or responsibly disposed. Contact Ginette Walker at 412-431-4449, ext. 243.

Backyard Composting Classes

PRC hosts backyard composting classes and free bin distribution for Allegheny County residents in early spring. The two-hour presentation on backyard composting thoroughly covers everything from setting up a compost pile, to proper maintenance, to ways of using finished compost. Contact Chris McHenry-Glenn at 412-431-4449, ext. 325.

Construction Junction

Construction Junction's mission is to promote conservation through the reuse of building materials. This nonprofit organization sells architectural artifacts, doors, windows, paint, electric and plumbing supplies, roofing materials, hardware, kitchen cabinets, sinks, ceramic tile, mantels, tin ceilings and much more. Location: 214 N. Lexington Street, Point Breeze, Pittsburgh, PA 15208 Contact 412-243-5025 or visit www.constructionjunction.org.

The Path To Clean Water Starts In Your Own Backyard

Here are 5 Things you can do for Nine Mile Run



MAKE THE CONNECTION!

For more information contact
 Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
412-371-8779 www.ninemilerun.org or
rainbarrels@ninemilerun.org

Welcome to the Nine Mile Run Rain Barrel Initiative

What's the Connection Between Your Home and Your Stream? The Nine Mile Run Rain Barrel Initiative.

Every home, school or small business property – including yours – is a source of dirty run-off that ends up polluting Nine Mile Run – every time it rains.

What you do on your property makes a big difference to the health of our local stream. That's why, this summer, the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and the 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program want you to make a positive difference.

Here is how: *catch the rain off your roof and reduce your property's total run-off into the storm drains.* It's that simple. There is nothing wrong with a little rain. As long as it's kept at home. When rain off your roof runs onto your lawn or driveway, it carries oil, dirt, soil and other pollutants straight to the river. Too much run-off can make the sewer system back up, spilling untreated overflows into basements and into our stream. It is time to stop that run-off.

Ready to Help? Here are 5 Things You Can Do

1. Install Rain Barrels

Every time it rains, run-off from your home flows into storm drains and sewers. Those drains flow into nearby rivers and streams.

Run-off from your driveway, yard and roof picks up lawn chemicals, oil and trash. You can stop run-off with a rain barrel, which is connected directly to your downspout. Installing rain barrels holds back the flood, reduces pollution and provides a source of cost-free fresh water for lawns and gardens.



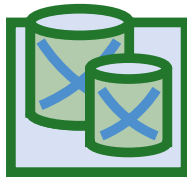
2. Naturalize Your Property

Trees, shrubs and perennial plants provide a soft, green carpet to absorb rainfall. Plantings also slow down run-off, which gently soaks into the ground (where it belongs). The more your yard resembles a natural area, the better it absorbs water. Smooth "golf-course green" lawns shed water, resulting in faster run-off. You can slow that run-off with native plantings.



3. Go Toxic-Free At Home

A good hard rain cleans up your yard, but that's bad for the river! Any fertilizers, pesticides, oil, carwash dirt or loose soil gets washed into the storm drains. You can decrease the run-off pollution from *your* home by sweeping loose soil, washing your car at a car wash (which cleans its water before releasing it), replacing chemical fertilizers with compost and eliminating use of all pesticides. Keep your driveway clean – but not with a hose!! Wipe up oil drips, which contribute *a tanker load of oil* to Allegheny watersheds every year.



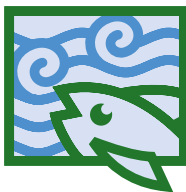
4. Water Efficiency

Water efficiency saves everyone money. And it reduces the demand on our sewers, and the chance of untreated overflows. A RiverSafe rain barrel catches 132 gallons of water for reuse in irrigation, ponds, or just for watering lawns and gardens. Remember, After the Rain – It's Time to Drain!



5. Get Involved!

The path to a clean river begins in your own backyard, in your neighbors' yards and in our community. Clean streams and rivers are up to us all. Everyday habits DO make a difference. In fact, they are the difference. Get involved with Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and other local efforts listed on the back page.



Thank you for helping make a difference!

