

I Discovered Stormwater Management Can Be Beautiful

When my family and I moved to Dover in April of this year, we were very happy to now have a smaller, more manageable lawn. However, that feeling was quickly “dampened” by standing water left on the patio after a soaking Spring rain that forced us to muddle through about 4”-6” of water to get into our house. It wasn’t long after that I received information from Dover Township about Stormwater Management BMPs (Best Management Practices) that gave me some hope for dry feet.

I love to landscape my home and find enjoyment in gardening after a stressful day at the office. I picked up a brochure from the Dover Township Office on “Rain Gardens” and proceeded to look on line to find more information on how this concept works. I was so excited to learn that I could solve my standing water issue, improve my landscape and do my part for the environment “all in one fell swoop”!

I took a basic design for a Rain Garden and a plant list for our area which is “Piedmont” and chose plants from the list that expressed my personality yet thrived in a lot of water. I also received some advice from a the owners of a local company “Why Not Greenhouse” asking them to recommend some “water loving plants” They introduced me to my new favorite grass “King Tut Grass” that thrives in water and adds character to any landscape project.

We customized our design and installed our Rain Garden to work with our soil type which is very heavy clay that percolates at a slower rate than a sandier, loamy soil. We also chose to use River Pebbles from SKH, rather than mulch, which look beautiful while adding function to our Rain Garden by not washing into piles.



I am thankful for the information that has resulted in a nicely landscaped lawn and nixed the standing water issues at my home.

I hope that you discover, just as I did, that with a little effort; you too can practice stormwater management in your lawn on a limited budget with some advice, information and assistance from Dover Township Office and some of our wonderful local businesses.

Kimberly N.
Dover Township Resident

We would like to hear from you:

Since the adoption of the state and county mandated Stormwater Management Ordinance in 2011, I have had the opportunity to meet one on one with many of our residents to discuss stormwater issues. Among the questions I'm often asked is "Why do we need such an ordinance?", those of you that have spent time in the outdoors around streams and creeks already know the answer to that question. Anytime streams and creeks are located within a developed area they are subject concentrated stormwater flows from the additional impervious surface and stream bank erosion will occur. In addition, stormwater runoff contains nutrients and pollutants that degrade our streams and rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. It is important to come together as a community to protect our natural resources. Numerous communities throughout the United States are beginning to see that every little bit helps. Dover Township wants to thank Kimberly for her article and would like to hear from more of you. We will be placing Kimberly's article and future articles from residents on our Website at http://www.dovertownship.org/New_Website/watershed.html

Chuck Farley, Public Works Director