

## ATTENTION TEACHERS !!!

### Applications Being Accepted for Mini-Grants Program

The Hampton Roads Environmental Education Teams (HR WET, HR STORM and HR CLEAN) offer competitive mini-grants of up to \$500 each year to provide supplemental funding for environmentally-related projects. All school teachers (K-12) and youth leaders in the Hampton Roads region are eligible.

Funded projects shall be specifically tied to litter prevention, waste minimization and recycling or beautification; water conservation; stormwater pollution prevention; or efficiency.

For a list of appropriate topic areas, more information and access to the easy-to-fill-out application, refer to the HR GREEN website at:

<http://askhrgreen.org/hr-green-mini-grant-program/>

## THE MAIN DRAIN

*The Main Drain* is a publication that addresses local Stormwater and Erosion and Sediment Control issues concerning Portsmouth residents and employees and is produced by The City of Portsmouth, Department of Public Works, Division of Stormwater Management.

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STORMWATER NEWS YOU CAN USE

A Publication of the Portsmouth Department of Public Works

Division of Stormwater Management

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race



Come on out to the **High Street Ferry Landing** on **October 15th** from **9am-4pm** as the Portsmouth waterfront is decorated with 40+ schooners from the **22<sup>nd</sup> Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race** in their "race to save the bay".

While you're there visit the...

- HR WET Trailer  
-green giveaways  
-kids activities
- Learning Barge  
-eco activities
- Portsmouth Humane Society  
-adopt a pet  
-scoop the poop relay race



**WHEN:**

*Saturday, October 15th*

**WHERE:**

*High Street Ferry Landing  
Portsmouth, VA 23704*

**TIME:**

*9am- 4pm*



STORMWATER  
TIP OF THE  
MONTH:



### SCOOP THE POOP!

What's the big deal? It's just a little poop, right? Well the next time your pup poops, think of this: 1 gram of dog droppings has over 20,000,000 E. Coli bacteria colonies in it!

## RAIN BARREL

### What is it?

A rain barrel is a device set up for collecting the rainwater that runs off your roof following a rain storm.

### Why should I use one?

Rain barrels are beneficial because they allow citizens to rely less on city water. Ultimately, saving residents more on their water bills and keeping more money in their pockets.

### Where can I use the collected rainwater?

DO NOT DRINK RAINWATER! Rain water is not recommended for human consumption as it may carry pollutants from contact with rooftop materials, bird feces, etc. However, collected rainwater is excellent for use in your lawn, garden, car wash, and other utility related needs.

### Where can I get one?

Rain barrels are simple to obtain. You have the option of either buying a pre-made one from the store or you can build one yourself! Of course, building one yourself is the cheaper option but if you're low on time or just don't have the tools necessary to complete such a project, store bought rain barrels are an excellent alternative.



City Engineer, Richard Hartman, made his own!

## BUILD A BARREL!

### Tools Needed:

- Drill with 3/4" bit (or use hole saw to cut 3/4" hole)
- Router, jig saw, or coping saw
- Measuring tape
- Other items as needed



### Materials:

- One 55-gallon drum
- 3 1/2ft vinyl hose (3/4" DD x 5/8" ID)
- One 4" diameter atrium grate
- One 1/2" PVC male adapter (will be attached to bottom of rain barrel)
- One 3" vinyl gutter elbow
- Waterproof sealant (i.e. plumbers goop, silicone sealant, or pvc cement)
- One 3/4" x 1/2" PVC male adapter (will be attached to end of hose and readily adapted to fit standard garden hose)
- Teflon tape

### Instructions:

1. Drill a 3/4" hole 1" above the bottom of your barrel.
2. Screw the 1/2" male adapter into the 3/4" hole.
3. Unscrew the 1/2" male adapter and wrap threads with Teflon tape. Coat the threads with a waterproof sealant and screw the 1/2" male adapter back into the hole. (Let this dry for 24 hours)
4. Attach a 3 1/2' vinyl hose to the male adapter.
5. Using the atrium grate as a template, draw and cut a hole in the top center of your rain barrel.
6. Using a 1/2" bit cut a notch into the barrel rim directly above the outlet you drilled in step 1. This will hold your hose when it's not in use.
7. ELEVATE YOUR RAIN BARREL! The hose needs to be below the outlet you drilled for water to run!

## NOTICE

### Stormwater Utility Fee Increase

Effective July 1, 2011

New Rate is \$8.25 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) per month  
( or \$24.75 per ERU per quarter)



### Where does the money go?

- \$ Ditch & Pipe Maintenance in the City Right-of-Way
- \$ Construction of Water Quality Structures
- \$ Water Quality Monitoring & Testing
- \$ Lake & Pond Management
- \$ Illicit Discharge Investigation
- \$ Enforcement of City Code & Program Standards
- \$ Public Education
- \$ VSMP Permit Compliance & Reporting

## PLANT MORE PLANTS

*In recent years, the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay has remained in poor condition because of high levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution caused from stormwater runoff. In noticing this, the Chesapeake Club started a personal stewardship campaign, "plant more plans", in which consumers are encouraged to take action and plant more plants in their yards in order to combat Stormwater runoff. By planting more plants in strategic locations you can fight erosion from your yard and help build a stronger community. Not only are you taxing your stormwater system less but you're also helping in the fight to maintain a healthier bay. Moreover, planting more plants in your yard may provide a much appreciated oasis from the modern concrete jungles we live in. Also, keep in mind when selecting your new plants that you want to pick plants that are going to thrive in the local conditions while avoiding invasive species. Make sure you consider elements such as sun exposure, soil moisture, and soil type. With all this in mind, take the pledge and start planting more plants today!*

To view more on this article and the Chesapeake Club's mission please visit:

[www.plantmoreplants.com](http://www.plantmoreplants.com)



## Rules and Regulations for Trash, Bulk and Yard Waste Collection

The Waste Management Division would like to remind residents of the rules when placing trash, bulk and yard waste out for collection. By following these rules, trash and debris will spend less time on the street, therefore making your neighborhoods cleaner. Plus, the less time trash is on the street, the less chance debris will end up in the storm drains.

### Trashcans

- Place trashcans at the curb between 5:00p.m. the day before collection and 7:00a.m. the day of collection.
- Remove empty trashcans from the curb by 7:00 p.m. the day of collection.
- Use the City's supplied trashcans or trash will not be removed from the curb.

### Bulk

- Place bulk refuse at the curb no earlier than the day before your normal collection and no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection.
- Separate different types of bulk (i.e. appliances, furniture, tree limbs).
- Place bulk refuse away from parked cars, power lines, trees, cable boxes, and water meters.
- Bulk refuse piles should be no greater than 8 ft. X 10 ft. X 8 ft. in height. Items that will not be picked up include, but are not limited to, debris generated by contractors, construction material, hazardous material and automobile parts.
- Tree limbs should not exceed 6 ft. Trees cut down by a contractor or tree parts greater than 18" in diameter must be removed by the contractor or private waste hauler.
- Do not mix boxes with bulk refuse. Boxes should be flattened and placed beside your trashcan.

### Yard Waste

- Place yard waste at the curb between 5p.m. the day before collection and by 7a.m. on collection day.
- Place yard waste (leaves and grass) in clear plastic bags not to exceed 25 pounds.
- Place no more than 20 bags of yard waste out on collection day.

For more information please call the Division of Waste Management at  
**757-393-8663**



*Are you tired of those pesky mosquito bites? Here are a few things residents should do to minimize the number of mosquitoes around the home.*

### Citizens need to:

- Dump out ALL standing water after every rain.
- Discard any unnecessary items that can collect water.
- Scrub and change water in bird baths, pet bowls and flower pot bases weekly.
- Wear light colored, loose fitting, long sleeve clothing.
- Properly use insect repellents.



Insect repellent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include the following:

- **DEET** (Chemical Name: N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-diethyl-3-methyl-benzamide)
- **Picaridin** (KBR 3023, Chemical Name: 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperidinecarboxylic acid 1-methylpropyl ester)
- **Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus** or **PMD** (Chemical Name: para-Menthane-3,8-diol) the synthesized version of oil of lemon eucalyptus
- **IR3535** (Chemical Name: 3-[N-Butyl-N-acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester)

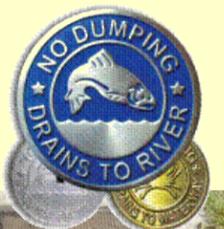
## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### TEACHERS, SCOUTS, CIVIC LEAGUES AND ALL OTHER GROUPS

There are thousands of storm drains across Hampton Roads that all lead to our waterways, and we need your help in letting everyone know that **ONLY RAIN BELONGS DOWN THE STORM DRAIN**. The medallions pictured at the right will be placed on drainage structures around the city. If your group would like to take on a small project installing these, please contact:

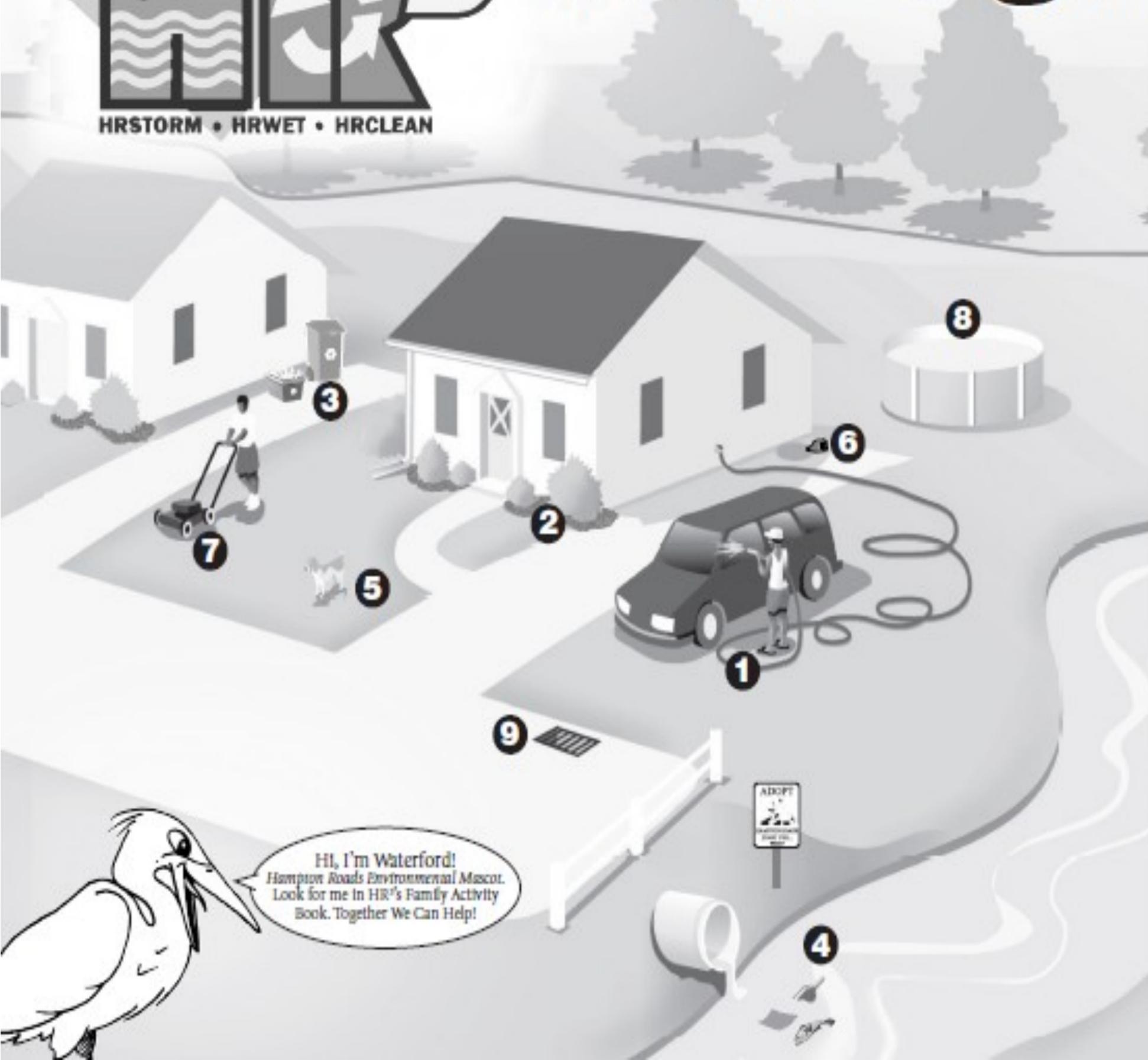
Zach Jones at 393-8666 ext. 4179 or by email:

[jonesz@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:jonesz@portsmouthva.gov)





# It All Begins With You.



- 1 Conserve water!** Save 100 gallons of water when washing your car by using a hose nozzle. By washing your car in the grass, you'll water your lawn while reducing the amount of polluted water flowing to area storm drains.
- 2 Mulch!** Use a layer of mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and weeds. Plant native and drought tolerant shrubs and flowers that require less water. Log onto [www.hrwet.org](http://www.hrwet.org) to find other ways to save water. Support your local compost facilities by buying mulch and compost.
- 3 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!** Recycling saves natural resources and landfill space and reduces pollution. Recycling in Hampton Roads diverts tens of thousands of tons of waste materials from local landfills every year.
- 4 Volunteer to help during neighborhood and local waterway clean up events.** Litter and yard debris kills wildlife and pollutes area waterways. Log onto [www.hrclean.org](http://www.hrclean.org) to find out about events in your area.
- 5 Scoop the Poop!** Pet waste contaminates waterways, adding excess nutrients and harmful bacteria, which can spread disease to humans.
- 6 Recycle used oil!** One gallon of oil pollutes one million gallons of water. Log onto [www.hrstorm.org](http://www.hrstorm.org) to find recycling centers.
- 7 Mulch Mow!** Save time, money and water. Mow your lawn so that the blades of grass are chopped into smaller pieces and deposited back into the turf. This will promote a healthier lawn, requiring less fertilizer and other harmful chemicals.
- 8 Dispose of chemicals properly!** If you must empty your swimming pool, direct the water across your lawn - not down the storm drain - once chemicals have dissipated. The water will soak into the lawn and be further filtered in the process. Also, cover the pool when it's not being used to reduce evaporation. Discard old chemicals at local household chemical collection facilities.
- 9 Only rain down the storm drain.** Storm drains empty directly, without treatment, into area waterways, making it important to keep them clean and free of litter, yard and household wastes. Keeping them clean and clear also prevents clogging which can lead to flooding during rain storms.



Hi, I'm Waterford!  
Hampton Roads Environmental Mascot.  
Look for me in HR's Family Activity  
Book. Together We Can Help!