

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 \$250 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 STORM website at: <http://www.hrstorm.org/MiniGrant.shtml>

\$\$ FREE \$\$

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 Utilities / Public Works - Division of Stormwater Management.

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THE MAIN DRAIN

STORMWATER NEWS YOU CAN USE

A Publication of the Portsmouth Department of Public Utilities/Public Works -
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PU/PW Stormwater in the News!

City Receives "Sustained Distinguish Service Award"



Stormwater Administrator, Cindy Linkenhoker (pictured left), accepts a Sustained Distinguished Performance Award for the City from the Elizabeth River Project's Pam Boatwright (pictured right) at its Annual Recognition Luncheon held at the Founders Inn, January 17, 2008.

On January 17, 2008, the City's Public Utilities/Public Works, Stormwater Division received a "Sustained Distinguished Performance Award" from the Elizabeth River Project at their annual River Stars Program Recognition Luncheon, held this year at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach.

Portsmouth, already an Achievement Level River Star, not only re-certified prior stormwater efforts but also documented new efforts, including:

- Aerator implementation program to improve dissolved oxygen levels in numerous stormwater ponds.
- Partnered with the Elizabeth River Project to create a rain garden in the Paradise Creek watershed.
- Installed Elizabeth River watershed markers at major bridge crossings throughout the City to help raise awareness as to the geographic extent of the river's large watershed.
- Installed a vegetated fringe around the perimeter of Gwaltney Acres pond to protect against bank erosion, limit access by small children and waterfowl, and to provide habitat to the critters that call the pond

STORMWATER TIP OF THE MONTH:

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR BUTT!

Cigarette butts are litter, too, and are not biodegradable. When thrown on the street, they will likely be washed into the nearest waterway. PLEASE...DON'T MAKE OUR WATERWAYS YOUR ASHTRAY!

U.S.S. "Ike" Anchors Up for Clean Up

Right and early on the morning of January 22, 2008, several hundred enthusiastic volunteers from the Navy's USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) descended upon Portsmouth with gloves and trash bags in hand to collect litter at various locations throughout the City.

The "Ike's" sailors removed almost 9,500 pounds of trash from ditches, drainage canals, medians and even a dredge spoil site. Their cleanup efforts were part of the Navy's overall community relations program, designed to help spruce up the local community and keep the sailors productive while their ship is in port for repairs.

At the 2,000 ft.-long drainage canal in Cavalier Manor, fondly known as Cavalier Canal to the residents, the volunteers walked from one end to the other and removed lots of trash along with some

rather unique items like a shed door and an abandoned shopping cart.

The Stormwater Division heartily thanks Chaplain Carl Muehler, LT, CHC, USN, and all the other "Ike" volunteers for a job well done!



Volunteers from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) and City staff remove trash from the recently dredged spoils of Cavalier Canal.

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE!

Our very own Ms. Diane Quick, Stormwater Compliance Specialist for the PU/PW Stormwater Division has been selected as the City's Employee of the Month for February, 2008. Diane is a long-time resident of Portsmouth who is dedicated to water quality and erosion & sediment control. She is an energetic and self-motivated member of our team, comprised of Public Utilities/Public Works staff who carry out state-mandated Stormwater and Erosion & Sediment Control programs for the City.



SAVE THE DATE:

EARTH DAY—APRIL 22, 2008

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Plant a rain garden
- Plant a tree
- Pick up litter
- Enjoy the outdoors
- Reduce, reuse, recycle



BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

- Find a suitable location. The best spot is usually a place where water already pools that is at least ten feet away from foundations.
- Determine how big your rain garden should be based on the square footage of impervious cover (roof, sidewalk, patio) that drains to the rain garden. For sandy soils, the rain garden should equal to 10-20% of the total drainage area.
- Create a garden plan and stake out the garden area.
- Determine how deep the garden should be based on the slope of the garden area. A flat area can be as little as 3-5" deep.
- Dig out the garden, ensuring to get the bottom of the rain garden level to prevent ponding in one area.
- Add a layer of compost to increase the garden's permeability.
- Build a berm around the downhill edge to keep the runoff in the garden.
- Plant an array of perennial plants. It's a good idea to choose native plants that are at least 1-2 years old when possible.
- Add a 2" layer of mulch (pine straw or wood chips), which will help prevent weeds from growing in the garden.
- Plant grass on the berm to prevent it from eroding.
- Make sure the plants get plenty of water.

"What is a Rain Garden?"

A rain garden is a shallow, constructed garden area with a slight depression in its center. The rain garden is planted with deep-rooted native plants & grasses. It is positioned to receive stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops. Rain gardens store runoff from these impervious surfaces, ponding the water for awhile until it infiltrates into the underlying soil.

Rain gardens reduce stormwater runoff and remove toxins from the water before they are washed into local streams and rivers.

Anyone who is willing to do a little digging and planting can create a rain garden. You don't have to be an engineer or rent heavy equipment to transform a small space in your yard into a beautiful, but functional water quality enhancement.

A properly designed rain garden will absorb standing water within 24 hours, so you don't have to worry about breeding mosquitoes.

For more information, and photos of rain gardens, check out the website below:

<http://www.raingardennetwork.com/about.htm>



Go ahead. . .do it! Plant a rain garden today & watch it grow!