

ATTENTION TEACHERS !!!

Applications Being Accepted for Mini-Grants Program

The HR GREEN team is offering 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/>

askHRgreen.org

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.

Editor-in-Chief: James Wright

Writer: Zach Jones

Contact Information:

Department of Public Works
Division of Stormwater Management
2001 Frederick Boulevard
Portsmouth, VA 23704



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THE MAIN DRAIN

STORMWATER NEWS YOU CAN USE

A Publication of the Portsmouth Department of Public Works

Division of Stormwater Management

Spring 2012



27 & 28 APRIL

It's time for some
Spring cleaning,
Hampton Roads!

VOLUNTEER



askHRgreen.org

The Great American Clean Up National Action Days are fast approaching and Hampton Roads has been chosen as one of 10 locations nationwide to launch the event. Keep Portsmouth beautiful by participating in the following events:

-Household Hazardous Waste Collection event (see pg. 2)

-Neighborhood Litter Clean Ups:

- Port Norfolk
- Shea Terrace
- Booker Street
- Trexler Street
- Race Street
- Park View
- McLean Street
- Tazewell Street
- Liberty Street
- Old Towne
- Truxton

To volunteer, contact Donna Corbus at corbusd@portsmouthva.gov



STORMWATER TIP OF THE MONTH:

BEFORE FERTILIZING, TEST YOUR SOIL!!!

Having a soil test done is not only beneficial to keeping your grass green but it also helps to keep our waterways clean. The results of a soil test will give you a proper recommendation for the amount of fertilizer to use.

Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Spring is finally here and with that comes the good ole' spring cleaning but, before haphazardly tossing unwanted chemicals in your trashcan, read this article! Let's start in your garage; some things you might consider tossing in the trash would include the half empty paint cans from 10 years ago, or the pesticides you no longer need, and even that old car battery or motor oil that just take up space in the corner. Next, you might make your way to the kitchen where you gather old cleaning chemicals, outdated ant poison, and even that used cooking oil you've been meaning to get rid of. Finally, you decide to clean out underneath your bathroom vanity where you find nail polish you no longer want, drain cleaner that's almost empty, and hair spray you no longer need. **STOP!!!!** Unfortunately, these items are hazardous to our environment and should not be placed in your regular trashcan for routine pickup. Instead, your local SPSA facility offers free household hazardous waste disposal! Yep, that's right, it's **FREE**, and environmentally friendly! Here's what you need to know before visiting your local SPSA facility:

- Waste must be delivered in a personal vehicle.
- There is a limit – five (5) gallons of liquid or 75 pounds of solid waste.
- Call to verify the hours for residential drop off.
- It's **FREE!**

Remember clean water starts with you, so do your part to protect our environment!

For a complete list of accepted household hazardous waste or for hours and operations of a facility near you, please visit: <http://spsa.com/household-waste-disposal.asp>

OR

Scan the barcode with your smart phone:



Portsmouth's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event:

When: Saturday, April 28th

Where: Wal-Mart parking lot on Frederick Boulevard

Time: 9am-Noon

What: Drop off household hazardous waste for **FREE** disposal!

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Paint | • Propane Tanks | • Cooking Oil |
| • Bleach | • Gas | • Herbicides |
| • Antifreeze | • Used Oil | • Insecticides |
| • Batteries | • Transmission Fluid | • Indoor Pesticides |



For a complete list of what will be accepted, please visit:

<http://spsa.com/household-waste-disposal.asp>

Question or comments? Please contact Zach Jones at jonesz@portsmouthva.gov

ONLY RAIN BELONGS DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!!!

True or false, the sewer system that receives water from off the street after a rain is the same as the sewer system that receives the water from inside your house after you take a shower or flush the toilet. If you answered "false" you are correct! The sewer system that collects water from the street after a rainstorm is very different from the sewer system that receives wastewater from inside your house. The sanitary sewer system is what collects wastewater from inside your house after you flush your toilet, take a shower, or wash the dishes. When wastewater leaves your house via internal plumbing it is carried underground through a network of pipes to a wastewater treatment facility. Unlike the sanitary sewer system the storm sewer system does not lead to a wastewater treatment facility. Instead, collected stormwater runoff from the storm sewer system drains to nearby receiving waters. That's why it's imperative to make sure **only rain goes down the drain!!!** In compliance with city ordinance 31.1-3 it shall be unlawful for anyone to put or allow to be put anything in the storm sewer system that is not stormwater and is punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine, a misdemeanor, and/or up to 30 days in jail. Figure 1 below shows the basic schematic of a sanitary sewer system and a storm sewer system.

WHAT GOES IN...



MUST COME OUT!

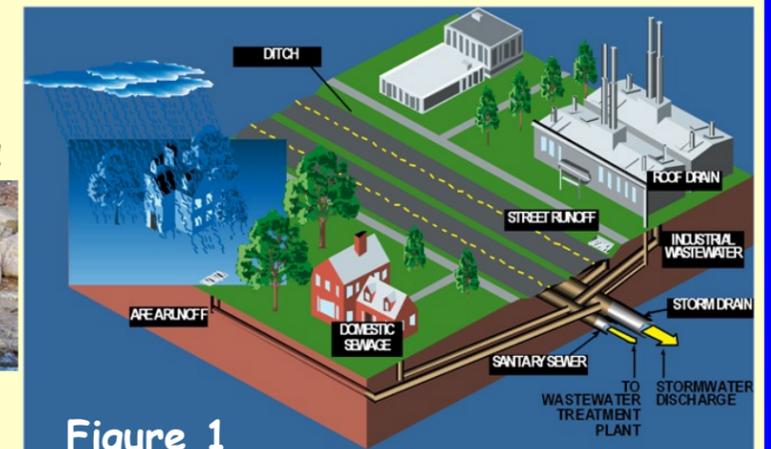


Figure 1

Report Violators at: (757) 393-8666

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 select drainage structures within 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

