STORMWATER IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY

Why does stormwater matter?

- **Because the river matters.**

  - The Wicomico River is one of Salisbury's most valued assets for both its natural beauty and its ties to the local economy. Poorly managed stormwater can pollute the river, cause erosion and flooding, and damage property and habitats.

- **Stormwater systems require long-term management and maintenance.**

  - The City's aging infrastructure is in need of repair to mitigate heavy rainfall, manage runoff, and meet regulatory requirements.
  - The City of Salisbury is close to sea level— so drainage can be a big issue when it rains or with a storm surge.

- **Stormwater systems are overlooked.**

  - Neglecting stormwater systems can cost the City millions in damages and repairs if an emergency strikes or fines if regulations are not met.

Source: Justin Karp, news21.com

  - Stormwater in Salisbury can create public health, safety, and economic concerns.

What is the City doing about this?

- **Coordinating, planning, and implementing projects that improve local stormwater management.**

  - Prioritizing projects that address stormwater management needs in the City's Capital Improvement Plan
  - Implementing the practices outlined in the City's stormwater permit and the Wicomico County Watershed Implementation Plan.
  - Tapping into the knowledge, skills, and capacity of community stakeholders the public-private partnership with the formation of the Wicomico River Project Group.
  - Working with the Center for Watershed Protection to characterize the watershed and identify cost-effective stormwater management practices.

Source: www.news.ncsu.edu

What can WE do?

- **Encourage activities that minimize stormwater runoff.**

  * Limit the amount of solid surfaces – parking lots, large buildings, and roadways – or use permeable materials that allow rain to naturally soak into the ground.
  * Allow buffers of vegetation alongside waterways to filter and slow runoff, and plant native trees, shrubs and groundcover to absorb rainwater. Consider a rain garden or rain barrel to manage runoff from your property.
  * Find ways to reduce the amount of litter, sediment, and other debris entering waterways through the stormwater collection system.
  * Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides to reduce the amount of debris being discharged into streams via a storm event.

How do we pay for all of this?

- **A sustainable stormwater financing strategy helps cover costs.**

  * Most communities simply rely on the local budget to pay for stormwater, where these needs must compete for limited resources.
  * Setting aside funds for maintenance and upgrades is critical to the effective management of stormwater systems.
  * Many communities use a minimal utility fee, so there are dedicated funds solely to finane stormwater management.

- **The City of Salisbury and other stakeholders are working with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) to find long-term solutions to managing stormwater in the City.**

  * The EFC is talking to the residential, business, and other sectors of the community to learn more about how stormwater impacts them and determine viable solutions.
  * The EFC is working with City staff to ensure Salisbury has a stormwater program that addresses local infrastructure and regulatory needs in a long-term and sustainable manner.
  * The EFC will provide financing recommendations designed to support stormwater program needs in a way that reflects the nature and characteristics of the City of Salisbury.

Want to learn more or share your thoughts on stormwater in the City of Salisbury?

Source:http://www.destination360.com/north america/us/maryland/salisbury

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