HOW MUCH RAIN CAN YOU RETAIN??

Erosion and sedimentation from stormwater and the pollutants they carry is the number one cause of pollution in our streams. A simple yet effective way for property owners to make a contribution to improving water quality and to lessen the impact to properties and communities downstream is by redirecting their downspouts from dumping onto streets and into storm sewers. One inch of rain on 1,000 square feet of rooftop creates over 600 gallons of stormwater!!

Allowing stormwater to naturally soak into the soil keeps it from entering our storm sewer system and streams during peak flows and decreases streambank erosion and sedimentation and pollution to our streams.

Two options for disconnected stormwater are storage or diversion. If diversion is selected it is best to divert the stormwater to where it will do the most good or infiltrate the soil most efficiently, such as a rain garden, a lawn, or some other form of bioretention. Downspout extensions should be directed to a grassy or natural area or rain garden which slopes away from your house and is at least six feet away from the foundation.

A rain barrel is a good way to store stormwater as it leaves the downspout. Rain barrels may be purchased or easily and inexpensively constructed. To be effective, they should be emptied between rain events. To determine how many rain barrels you will need to hold the rainwater from your roof, see www.dcgreenworks.org/LID/downspout.html.

.