

Virtual Online Rain Barrel Workshop a Success



Pictured with the newly donated rain barrel at Ira Reynolds Riverside Park: Susquehanna Borough Community Development Coordinator, Valerie Senese, Conservation Specialist, Don Hibbard and Watershed Specialist, Nate Harpster. Missing from the photo: Borough Council President, Roy Williams

Did you know that the Northeast has seen a larger increase in extreme precipitation than anywhere else in the U.S?

Precipitation falling on roofs often drains onto driveways, sidewalks, or other paved surfaces and is not able to soak into the ground. Water rushing over these hard surfaces picks up pollutants along the way, which then enters our streams. This water run-off can cause flash flooding and erosion, lower water quality, and harm aquatic habitats.

This past summer, the Susquehanna County Conservation District held an online rain barrel workshop to educate participants on how to manage stormwater in their community. Ten participants virtually explored the Chesapeake Bay watershed, acquired knowledge on water quality problems associated with the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and learned how individuals can reduce their stormwater footprint. Following the workshop, each participant was able to pick up a rain barrel to install on their own property.

The grant also provided funding for two additional rain barrels to be purchased for environmental education purposes. One rain barrel has been donated to the borough of Susquehanna where it will be installed at the newly opened Ira Reynolds Riverfront Park. The second rain barrel will be on display at the Susquehanna County Conservation District. Once installed, the public is encouraged to visit both locations to learn more about stormwater and see how a rain barrel functions.

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