

Water - conserving domestic water and managing stormwater runoff

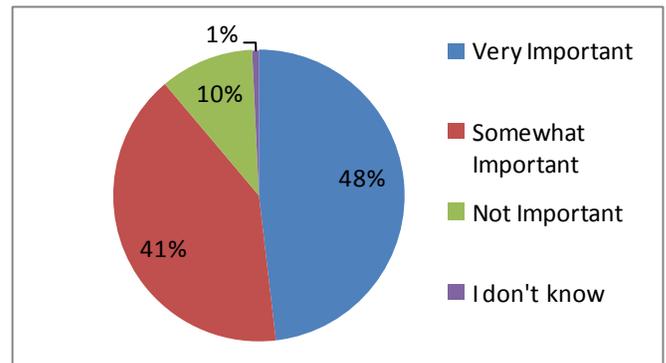
Stormwater management and domestic water were combined because it was difficult to determine the specific water reference of some comments.

Multiple Choice Questions

Question #1: How important do you believe it is for the Town to address each of the following issues?

Multiple Choice #11: Improve stormwater management. This could include better water conservation in the home or yard, watershed stewardship (stream cleanups, monitoring, and pollution prevention) or reduction of roadsalt or sand application during winter months.

135 respondents



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Open-Text Questions

Question #2: In your opinion, what is the most important issue that the Town should address in order to improve the environment and long-term livability of this community?

1. Increase greenspace, manage runoff.....
2. Stormwater management; preventing the further pollution of the watershed. Much less use of salts in snowstorms! The salts have a terrible impact on the watershed.
3. water control, storm control and street lighting
4. Continued focus on maintaining our tree canopy and watershed management.
5. Global warming emissions and water runoff are the real culprits from our little patch of paradise.
6. Initiatives to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions so ... improved stormwater management; sustainable landscaping practices.
7. A toss-up between storm water management and preparedness for climate related emergencies
8. keeping household sprinklers from 'watering' the sidewalks as they currently do,
9. water control,
10. I think water management in general deserves more attention. It would be good to see if there are ways for homeowners to *cost-effectively* harvest and use rainwater for use during droughts.
11. The encouragement of sustainable lawn care practices.
Reason: Water restrictions, Run-off, Lawnmowers give off more pollution than cars, mosquito breeding.

Question #3: Being realistic, what do you think are the three most important things the Town might do to help you and your family reduce your negative impacts on the environment?

1. storm water reuse program
2. Review streams and natural water flow in town to decrease mosquitoes and flooding.
3. reduce run off from black top surfaces on driveways - Town should be a model by changing its parking area which is a heat island and offers little or no onsite absorption
4. reduce stormwater runoff reaching streets and storm drains
5. Educational programs on mitigating run-off and employing sustainable landscaping practices.
6. Promote stormwater management efforts
7. storm water management
8. Help homeowners determine if they need better water runoff management on their individual properties (e.g., provide advice on replacing driveway surfaces).
9. Subsidize homeowner solutions to water runoff problems that persist despite the Water Ordinance passed several years ago. The ordinance addressed new construction but not runoff from existing properties, and many of us endure squishy backyards all summer long, due to the runoff from our neighbors.
10. Facilitate better landscape and water retention practices. Perhaps a student intern group could help get homeowner's soil tested, council on rain barrels, explain available rebates, etc.
11. Stormwater is a big issue, in both managing the flow between neighbors and improving the quality that goes into the Chesapeake Bay. excessive watering;
12. provide info re: water usage and encourage use of rain barrels, sustainable watering (I have seen more than one lawn with sprinkler on mid-day in the summertime), etc.

Bottom of Question #1: Feel free to provide comments on the topics above or suggestions for additional environmental issues you feel the town might address”

1. Better use of water;
2. For storm water management, procedures are already in place to retain water for those who are building additions or new homes. However, there are no penalties for a homeowner (who is not doing an addition, or who did one before the regulations were in place) who decides to dump their water onto or near another property -- although they might be referred to the County which seems both unfair and unacceptable.
3. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to weigh in. I support all measures towards energy efficiency, cleaner water, and fewer toxic chemicals. In my experience, the water in Chevy Chase homes is not good for drinking or washing unless filtered.

Bottom of Question #4: Feel free to tell us other actions you have taken to reduce your environmental impact.

1. We have 4 large water barrels to catch rain water and use it for our plantings when needed.
2. had my driveway redone with bricks to prevent water run off. but tghen wa told it wasn't the correct kind of material. This was not specified in the original descriptions
3. installed a cistern to collect rainwater from our downspouts ... planted drought tolerant plants in the yard and slow growing grass that needs very little mowing
4. installed gutter barrels. A lot of these actions were taken as a result of information provided by the town.
5. low-flow showerheads and toilets, dual-flush toilets,
6. we replaced all the old toilets in the house We also use a high-efficiency, front-loading washer.
7. low flow plumbing fixtures
8. installed a cistern to collect rainwater from our downspouts, installed low-flow toilets and faucets, planted drought tolerant plants in the yard and slow growing grass that needs very little mowing
9. installed gutter barrels.
10. We have 4 large water barrels to catch rain water and use it for our plantings when needed.

Final Question: Please briefly describe any issues you would be interested in discussing further.

1. Getting rid of the automatic sprinkler systems which rain on the sidewalks (whether or not watering is necessary) and end up in the storm drains.