



# SPRING CLEANING

April showers bring may flowers! Spring is a great time to clean and get outside to prep your home for upcoming rain and warmer temperatures. Unfortunately, if you're not careful, your spring cleaning rituals might be sending a toxic stew of pollution into your local river, lake or wetland. Instead, follow these simple tips to stay eco-friendly this spring:

## YARD WASTE

There are many ways to deal with yard waste but why should you worry about it? If yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush, trash) is left along streets, driveways, and sidewalks, then when it rains all of that waste can be washed straight to storm drains. This can cause storm drains to become blocked, risking flooding. Plus, grass clippings and leaves can add too much nitrogen and phosphate into our water ways. Excess phosphorous and nitrogen added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of this extra organic matter can depress oxygen levels, killing organisms.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous waste should never be disposed of in the trash or down any drain. You can always call the DEP at 304-558-5938 for household hazardous waste questions and help. Also, call 1-800-642-3074 to report a spill.

## PET WASTE

Get out there and clean it up! But why, you ask? Pet waste is more than just a stinky mess, it contains bacteria and parasites, as well as organic matter and nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous. The organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality by using up oxygen and releasing ammonia.

*And remember this ordinance or it could cost you!* **THROWING OR SCATTERING GARBAGE; PERMITTING PREMISES TO BECOME UNSANITARY. 953.11** - No person shall throw, place or scatter any garbage, rubbish, trash, grass clippings, leaves or yard debris or other refuse over or upon any premises, street or alley, sewer or drainage basin, either public or private, or adjacent thereto, and either with or without the intent to later remove or burn the same, or permit from the accumulation of refuse, any premises owned, occupied or controlled by any such person to become or remain offensive, unsanitary, unsightly, unsafe to the public health or a fire hazard.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Some vigorous spring cleaning can give you a better workout than brisk walking? Depending on what you're spring cleaning, you could burn up to 200 calories/hour.

## VEHICLES

With warmer weather comes wanting to wash winter grime off your vehicles. Opt for an environmentally friendly soap and wash your car in the grass so the water soaks into the ground verse into a storm drain. Going to a car wash is always a great option also.

Always clean up vehicle leaks promptly and dispose of oil, anti-freeze and other vehicle waste properly!

## CHECK YOUR GUTTERS

Your home's gutters are very important! Gutters are responsible for funneling the water off of the roof and away from your home (but not onto your neighbors home). Clogged gutters can cause water to fall and collect directly around your foundation and cause your homes and yards to flood.

Cleaning your gutters regularly, even if you have gutter guards, is a great way to prep for those spring showers. You can hire a service to clean your gutters or doing it yourself can save you \$100 or more. Plan to clean gutters at least twice a year—more often if the roof is directly beneath trees or you live in a region with frequent storms. But only take on this task if you can work safely from a ladder or the roof. If your roof is higher than a single story or has a steep roof line, you're better off hiring a gutter-cleaning pro.

## St. Albans "Take A Walk on The Wild Side" Spring Nature Hikes

St. Albans Parks and Recreation hosts and sponsors the Annual St. Albans WV Parks and Recreation "Take A Walk On The Wild Side" Nature Hikes held at the St. Albans City Park on Saturday, April 9th from 9:00am to 12:00 pm

The 2022 event will be the 8th annual event. There is NO FEE CHARGED for this family-based community event. The St. Albans Parks and Recreation

Department has hosted up to 250 participants that come to hike and learn about nature, the environment, wildflowers, insects, birds, butterflies, and photography. Hikes are led by professional botanists, naturalists, photographers, and Master Naturalists from around West Virginia that volunteer their time.

This year, the event theme is "Earth, Wind, and Fire". These topics are at the forefront of all that we are experiencing locally and world-wide. The West Virginia Conservation Agency will provide the Soil Tunnel Trailer that is a large hands-on display that participants walk through and learn about life in the soil. This will be accompanied by the WV State University 4-H Extension providing participants with information about the importance of earthworms and other pertinent information.



WV Division of Forestry and the St. Albans Fire Department will present programs about fire safety and the effects of fire in the environment. A fire truck and emergency vehicle will be on site for participants to see and learn about.

"Blown Away" will be a fun activity for kids in addition to the Wind Tunnel hosted by the National Weather Service to learn about the benefits and impacts of the wind on our environment. WV DEP DAQ will provide displays to illustrate air movement, pollution, and wind effects on the environment.

The St. Albans Branch of the Kanawha County Library provide activities and a Story Walk for the children and their parents. A pruning workshop offered by the West Virginia State University Extension will also take place immediately following the hikes.

The St. Albans Stormwater Program (MS4 Program) provides rain barrels and hands on information for folks that are interested in purchasing and building their own rain barrel. Cost is \$30.00.

The Beginning Pruning Workshop is a free hands-on pruning class for everyone. Led by Liz Moss, Urban Forestry Extension Agent with the WVSU Extension Agency, this is a great way to learn about keeping trees healthy and beautiful. Interested folks must pre-register for the class at: <http://bit.ly/WVTreeMinders-welcome> or <http://bit.ly/WVSUPruning>.

Publicity is accomplished primarily through posters, Facebook, emails, radio, television interviews, public service announcements, and a series of banners placed throughout St. Albans.

The St. Albans Parks and Recreation Department operates on a limited budget and this event is largely unfunded and reliant upon sponsorships, volunteers, donations, and outside funding. Gifts provided by our sponsors are given away during the event.

This event will be followed by a free Tree Pruning Workshop from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

### Contact information:

Take A Walk on The Wild Side Volunteer coordinator: Debbie Keener-304-415-1223

St. Albans Parks & Rec Dept Program Coordinator: Scott Tweedy-304-533-4872

St. Albans Parks & Rec Dept Program Coordinator Office #: 304-722-4625

St. Albans Parks & Rec Dept, PO Box 1488, St. Albans, WV 25177 - 500 Washington Ave.