



VLMP NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Best Management Practices

Water quality best management practices, or BMPs, are practices that limit or counteract issues related to stormwater, non-point source pollution, and flooding.

These practices can be:

Agricultural: These include fences to keep cattle from wallowing in creeks, lowering *E. coli* levels.

Residential: Septic tank pump-outs for homes.

Urban: Installation of structures such as infiltration trenches on the sides of roads.

Stream Crossing

Stream crossings are culverts or similar passages that allow water and aquatic organisms to safely travel underneath roads, bridges and otherwise impassable structures, benefiting wildlife.



Watering Station

Certain water-saving types of livestock watering stations are considered BMPs. Some of these are fed by rain and can even use solar powered pumps to transport the water more efficiently.



Septic Maintenance

Septic systems should be inspected and pumped (if needed) every 3-5 years. Consistent maintenance and inspection help septic tanks to continue to function properly.

Well-maintained septic tanks benefit both the homeowner and the area's water quality by keeping *E. coli* and other pathogens contained.

For More Information:

[Septic Systems & On-Site Sewage Disposal](#)



To learn More:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Outreach/Pages/VLMP.aspx>



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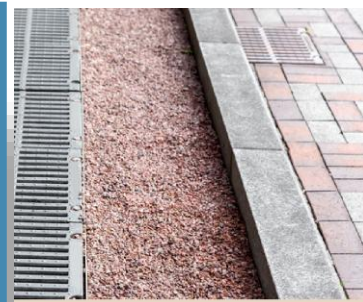
TEAM
KENTUCKY
ENERGY AND
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Division of Water

Runoff and Impervious Surfaces



Impermeable surfaces are those that have difficulty absorbing water. Concrete and asphalt are examples of impermeable surfaces. When it rains on these materials, the water coats the surface instead of percolating deeper. This runoff water can carry sediment, motor oil, and other pollutants into larger bodies of water.

BMPs, such as the utilization of semi-permeable building materials when possible, or the installation of structures that allow for increased infiltration, help to mitigate flooding risk and surface runoff.



Infiltration Trench

Infiltration trenches are stormwater BMPs that typically consist of a ditch, most often filled with gravel, running parallel to a road or other impermeable surface.

These trenches allow the water to infiltrate the soil gradually. This prevents large amounts of runoff from occurring all at once after an extended period of rain.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are specialized, bowl-shaped gardens that function as stormwater management installations.

The bowl-like shape helps to funnel in runoff and snowmelt. The plants growing inside help to filter out pollutants, such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous and automotive contaminants.

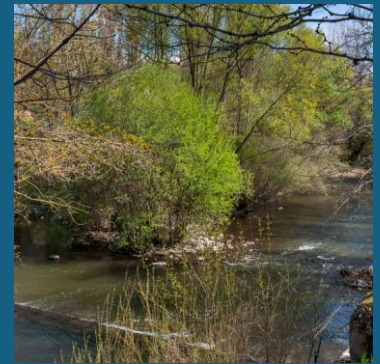


The buttonbush is a Kentucky native bush and a potential option for a rain garden.

Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas proximal to water. They provide water filtration, animal habitat, and other ecosystem services.

They can be natural or planted. Research should be done to determine which plants are best suited for the area before a riparian buffer is created.



Swale

Swales are vegetated channels often installed parallel to impermeable roads. These structures serve a similar purpose to infiltration trenches, helping water to permeate into the ground water rather than pooling on the surface. The vegetation, ideally consisting of native grasses, shrubs or small trees, also helps to filter out pollutants. These can be residential alternatives to gutters and storm sewers.