

# IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN EVERYDAY WAYS

## TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

- ◆ Inspect and fix leaky faucets and showerheads or use low-flow alternatives.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes in both your home and business.
- ◆ Use sprinklers on your lawn or property minimally, and when you do, run your sprinklers before 8am.

## TIPS FOR CARS & BOATS

- ◆ Check your cars and boats for oil leaks and regularly maintain your vehicles to reduce oil use.
- ◆ Wash your vehicles on gravel, grass or other permeable surfaces that can help filter harmful soaps from reaching our waterways.
- ◆ Use oil absorbent pads in your boat's bilge to reduce oil leaking into our waterways.
- ◆ Use environmentally safe paint to when protecting the bottom of your boat from fouling.
- ◆ Always carry your trash ashore after a day on the water and secure trash while it is on the boat.

## TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

- ◆ Plant more native trees around your home to help prevent water pollution and slow the speed of runoff.
- ◆ Install a rain barrel to collect water from roofs and downspouts and use the collected water for washing your vehicles, gardening or watering your lawn. We can help you with instructions on how to make/purchase a rain barrel and install it!
- ◆ Create a rain garden using native plants and landscaping to help soak up storm water.
- ◆ Add planters filled with native plants and flowers to your sidewalks and other hard services like driveways and cement pads.
- ◆ Sweep your sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them off. The water from the hose carries excess lawn clippings and fertilizer into nearby storm drains.
- ◆ Pick up your pet's waste.
- ◆ Instead of bagging grass clippings, recycle them by leaving them on your lawn. Those clippings act as a natural fertilizer and save our landfills from bagged clippings while reducing the amount of fertilizer applied to grass!
- ◆ Compost your yard waste and kitchen scraps and use the compost as an alternative to fertilizer on your property.
- ◆ In the winter, when de-icing your property's walkways and streets, consider adding sand for traction so de-icing agents don't end up in our waterways or sweep up any unused de-icing agents and recycle for the next storm.
- ◆ If you have a septic tank, have it inspected and maintained regularly. Your local health department can provide guidance.
- ◆ Dispose medications and pharmaceuticals properly, do not flush them down the toilet.
- ◆ Contact the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) to ensure proper disposal of household chemicals. Find DSWA's contact information at [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com).