

## SAVING WATER STOPPING WATER POLLUTION



Each time it rains or snow melts, storm water runs off over our streets, driveways, parking lots and yards, picking up pollutants along the way. Sooner or later, this polluted runoff enters our lakes, rivers and streams. Polluted storm water is the biggest source of the water pollution that impairs Whitley County's lakes, rivers and streams. You can help reduce the amount of storm water runoff from your home by installing a rain barrel to harvest rain water during the growing season.

People have collected, stored and used rain water for centuries. Harvested rain water was once an essential source of water for home use. Harvested rain water is free. Most residents of Columbia City pay a monthly water bill. Homeowners can save up to 1300 gallons of tap water by using a rain barrel to water their gardens and landscapes during the spring and summer. Harvested rain water is very good for flowers, trees and shrubs. Rain water is naturally soft water and doesn't contain chlorine or salt. Tap water is chlorinated and many homeowners use salt to soften their tap water.

The City of Columbia City Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) offers a one-time rebate of \$30 to City residents who pay a monthly storm water fee and who purchase and install a rain barrel that meets the requirements of the MS4. These requirements and the rebate claim forms are posted on our City's storm water webpage, [www.columbiacity.net/community/stormwater-2/](http://www.columbiacity.net/community/stormwater-2/). So far seventeen homeowners have installed a rain barrel and received a rebate from the MS4.