

City of Birmingham
Summer 2016 Newsletter

Alternative Hardscaping Ideas for Stormwater Infiltration

Most home owners typically include landscaping features on their property for the additional aesthetic and environmental value to their home. Hardscaping can also be installed to minimize the impacts of ponding water and allow for infiltration of stormwater. Hardscape surfaces are man-made structures constructed in an outdoor area which includes buildings, patios, walkways, streets, and sidewalks. We encourage home owners to practice the following guidelines in order to minimize the impacts of excess stormwater on their property:

- Check the connections of any gutters and downspouts to make sure there are not any gaps and voids in order to properly convey stormwater. Also, make sure that leaves and other debris are not clogging the gutter system.
- Installation of rain barrels at the end of your gutter system will capture rain water and acts as a watering technique that can reduce your water bill.
- Gravel and woodchips can be used as alternative materials for constructing walkways on your property.
- Before paving an area on your property, consider utilizing permeable paving surfaces to allow for better stormwater infiltration.

For more information on hardscaping ideas for stormwater management, please visit the MSU Extension website at www.msue.anr.msu.edu.