

# Did you know?

Auburn gets an average of approximately **46 inches** of rain every year! That is **29,000 gallons** of runoff leaving your roof and driveway and entering the City Storm Drains! A rain barrel can collect **600 gallons** of water for every inch of rainfall!

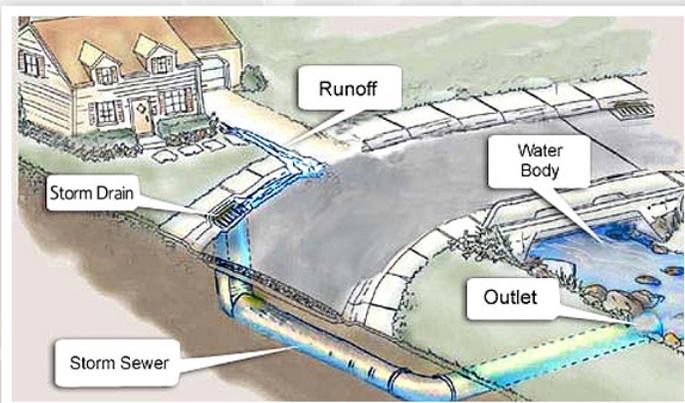
**DOING  
YOUR PART WILL:**

Protect the quality of our waters & save money in City maintenance and operations!

## Why not redirect the rain that runs off your roof to your yard or a rain barrel?

### Benefits

- **Rain water is free!** Use it for watering lawns and gardens and other household chores.
- Using rain water can help **reduce the demand on the local water supply** and the load on the storm drain system.
- Rain water is naturally soft and doesn't have any chlorine, calcium or lime your lawn and **plants will love you!**
- Diverting roof runoff away from your foundation can **lessen basement flooding!**



### Facts

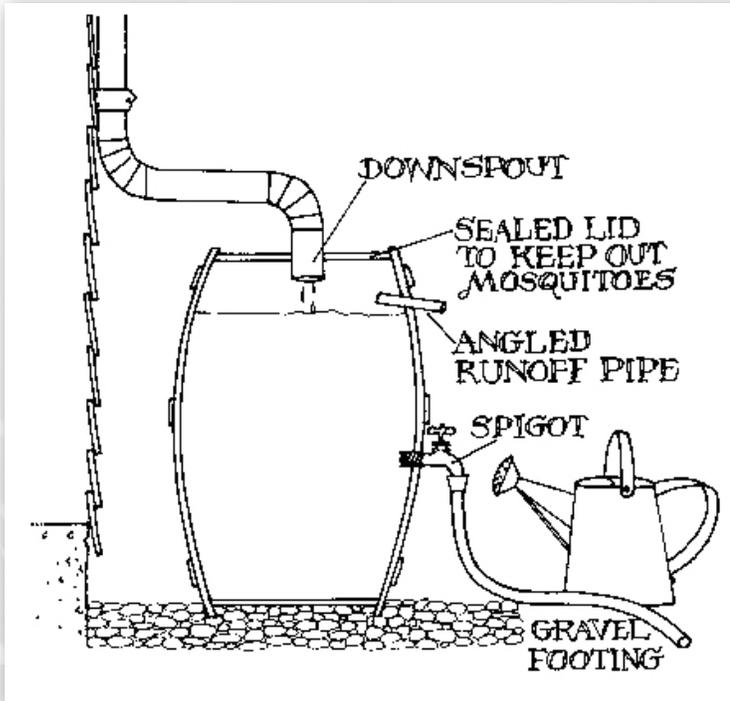
- Storm Drains do not lead to treatment plants; they lead to our ponds and rivers, like Lake Auburn and the Androscoggin River.
- Runoff in the Storm Drains often carries trash, grass clippings, pet waste, chemicals and oil.
- Clogged Storm Drains can cause flooding in your streets and basements.

### Take Aways

- 1. Do Not Dump: Only rain down the storm drain!**
- 2. Divert your runoff to areas on your property where it is safe for water to infiltrate.**



# How to Reap the Benefits



Spruce Creek Watershed Improvement Project, Town of Kittery, ME.  
Protect Kittery Waters, Rain Barrel Factsheet: Catch The Rain With A Rain Barrel. 2008-2009.

## Rules of Thumb

- Rain barrels must be placed on a level surface.
- Place the rain barrel beneath your downspout, or a spot of concentrated runoff from your roof if you don't have gutters.
- Use cinder blocks or a wooden frame to raise your rain barrel high enough to drain properly into a hose or watering can.
- To protect your home from heavy rainfall, connect a hose to an overflow spigot near the top of the barrel and direct it away from your foundation.
- To properly maintain your rain barrel system:
  - Clean your gutters and downspouts;
  - Remove debris from the rain barrel screen;
  - Drain and store rain barrels before freezing weather;

## Tips

- Lower your water bill/conserves well water AND reduce polluted stormwater runoff by collecting and using rain water to water lawns, gardens, indoor plants or your household!
- You may need to have your downspout cut to an appropriate height above your rain barrel.
- Soaker hoses can be attached to rain barrels to slowly release water into gardens.
- Be sure to use water within two weeks, before mosquitoes have the chance to develop!
- To prevent ice and freeze damage, rain barrels can be stored outside, if they are upside down, the faucet is covered, and something heavy is used to keep it from rolling away.
- To maximize rain storage capacity, connect multiple barrels together by their downspouts!

**CONTACT**

your local hardware store,  
garden center, or nursery to  
find a variety of rain barrels!

**OR**

**ORDER**

online from Skyjuice New  
England in York, Maine @  
[www.skyjuice.us](http://www.skyjuice.us)

**\*Be careful:** Installing a rain barrel can be a complex task. Please consult a professional.