



Are You Ready for Spring?

As winter melts away, (and it will happen someday!), the following tips can help you prepare for the spring thaw and reduce flooding impacts, as well as keeping harmful materials out of our rivers and streams:

- Uncover and clear catch basins, yard drains, drainage structures, or detention pond outlets near your properties
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts and address ice dams, including hiring a professional to clear particularly bad accumulations of ice.
- Move items up off the floor to protect them from potential infiltration of floodwaters or rising groundwater in the basement.
- Move stored chemicals to areas where floodwaters cannot reach.
- Make sure your sump pump is working (if you have one) and consider installing a battery operated backup in the event of a loss of power. Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement.
- Anchor outdoor items that may float away and enter our waterways, such as fuel tanks and small lawn and garden machinery.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect your property from future flooding events.
- Listen to National Weather Service forecasts for flood related advisories or warnings. Not sure what all the threat levels mean?
 - Flood Watch: flooding is possible in your area.
 - Flash Flood: rapid flooding, usually in low lying areas.
 - Flash Flood Watch: flash flooding is possible in your area.
 - Flood Warning: flooding is occurring, or will occur, in your area. Move to higher ground and listen to local media for evacuation orders.
 - Flash Flood Warning: a flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground and listen to local media for evacuation orders.

Finally, the number one tip during flooding events: Use common sense and be safe!

More information can be found at www.lgrow.org

