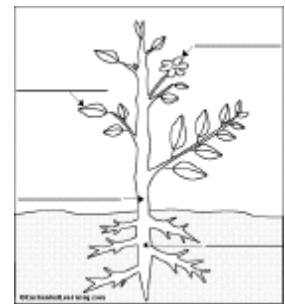


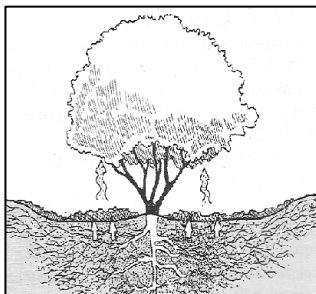
Those of us fortunate enough to live here in Western North Carolina (WNC) are presented with beautiful mountain vistas and trails, and voluptuous growth of an exceptional range of plants and animals. But perhaps this summer has also brought you a flooded basement, drowned flowers, or a washed-out driveway. Or perhaps you remember your landscaping and vegetables dying in 2007 and 2008 after weeks of no rain.

Transition Asheville and WaterLinks, PLLC, are introducing the Water Sustainability Initiative of WNC to encourage residents to implement methods for managing rain water that are available, cheap, and easy to apply, and that help address problems from both flood and drought conditions. We aim to show property owners how to capture and store enough rain water onsite, in the ground and with tanks and plants, to minimize flooding and drought-proof their properties. Plus, by staying near where it falls, water remains available for keeping the streams full, the air cool, and the soils moist.

Water management becomes an issue we can all do something about, not just an issue for our municipalities, and diversifying our water sources can protect us from rising water prices and the cost of repairing infrastructure.

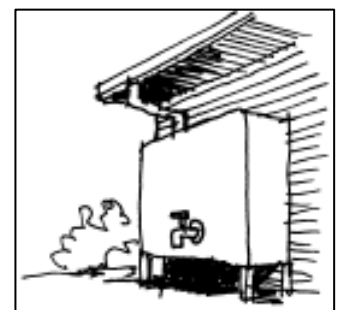


The process is based on water storage and incremental recharge. With an inch of rain on an acre of land providing over 27,000 gallons of free water, WNC receives significant rainfall even during drought. The Water Sustainability Initiative believes that techniques proven to be effective in dry areas can be modified to apply here, and that WNC can demonstrate the power of these methods to provide clean affordable water for all.



Many methods are available, and they can be roughly divided into Low-Tech (methods such as berms-and-swales, infiltration basins, check dams, and diversion swales that are cheap, easy, and available), Mid-Tech (methods such as tanks, gutters, and French drains that you can do if you are handy, but companies also exist to do them for you), and High-Tech (methods such as terracing, gray water systems, and ponds for which you may need a professional). The Water Sustainability Initiative emphasizes the Low-Tech methods to encourage their widespread use and to encourage neighbors to work together to use the methods most effectively.

The Water Sustainability Initiative is also proposing policies such as incentives to help minimize any costs incurred, demonstration projects and information signs at public settings, and the identification of watershed sub-basins (the natural boundaries that define shared water resources). We have been encouraged to demonstrate widespread awareness, interest, and enthusiasm for our practices and policies, and want you to help meet that need.



You can help the Water Sustainability Initiative achieve our goals by:

1. Signing our petition and telling others about our work
2. Learning about the methods and implementing them
3. Scheduling a presentation for groups in which you participate.

To learn more or to get involved, go to [transitionasheville.org](http://transitionasheville.org), and click on Groups. Select and join the Water Action Group to keep track of what we are doing. Contact Sherry at [Singram@WaterLinksPLLC.com](mailto:Singram@WaterLinksPLLC.com) to learn about ways that you can help. Or help circulate the petition and send it to Water Links, PLLC, P. O. Box 1107, Candler, NC 28715-1107.