

## Romney City Hall Adds Stormwater Management

by Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coordinator, West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection

In October, the City of Romney's staff created a new bioswale at Romney's City Hall on Route 50 in Romney, adding porous soil, berms and plants to one side of the parking lot that will slow down and filter pollutants from rain and snow melt runoff. Herb Peddicord, of the West Virginia Division of Forestry, delivered five black gum trees delivered to the site, and 28 inkberry bushes were also planted.

The City of Romney was instrumental in the project because they embraced the idea of retrofitting their carport roof, parking lot and driveway to accommodate the bioswale practice. The City provided the required match to leverage \$12,000 of WV DEP's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant. Some of the match came from the contribution of labor and equipment. The grant provided consulting services from Gordon, as well as bio-filter soil, and administration through Region 8 Planning and Development Council. This project will passively treat runoff before it enters the storm drain, resulting in cleaner, cooler water reaching Big Run and the South Branch Potomac River.

The City plans to capture even more runoff from its property by installing rain barrels at 3 downspouts, which will supply water for the shrubs and flowers in Celebration Park. Throughout the project, WV DEP's Stormwater Specialist, Sebastian Donner, has provided training and guidance on stormwater management. Just a little further downhill, the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind also has a runoff filtering area with plants and flowers, called a rain garden. Small projects like this can really add up to noticeable improvements in local streams like Big Run.

In November, City staff installed porous pavers in the front parking area, another way to better manage runoff. This was combined with a small rain garden near the City signpost, and repaving of the rest of the lot. Potomac Valley Transit Authority has contributed to the paving project.



Romney City Hall Driveway and Parking Area  
In May 2014, before the bioswale was installed



Romney City Hall Driveway and Parking Area  
In October 2014, with the bioswale



Romney City Hall front parking area with new rain garden, and gravel under-layer ready for porous pavers, November 2014.