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Grant targets runoff from stormwater

From staff reports

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A new \$725,000 grant aims to reduce polluted stormwater runoff flowing into the Rivanna River and the Chesapeake Bay from Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene.

The Chesapeake Bay Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded the grant to the Rivanna River Basin Commission. With the money, the commission will fund runoff-reducing projects, such as rain water cisterns, rain gardens and porous pavement at three sites: Charlottesville High School, the new Fluvanna County High School and the Greene County Community Park.

At a fourth site, in Crozet, the commission will construct wetlands in a planned town common to capture and treat runoff from future development. The engineered wetland will help protect Powell's and Lickinghole creeks by capturing runoff from 53 acres of the watershed.

The commission will also create an "inventory of opportunities" for leaders in Fluvanna and Greene counties to install runoff-reducing projects at schools, parks and other public facilities. The two-year project will culminate in a regional symposium.