Pollution Prevention

Pesticides – Use only as a last resort
Fertilizers – Compost is best, chemical fertilizers wash off to streams and cause eutrophication
Detergents/Household Cleaners – Use less toxic alternatives
Pet Waste – Pick up after dogs

Soil Health

Soil Basics
- **Soil** = minerals, water, air & organic material
- **Texture** = Proportion (%) of Sand, Silt, Clay size particles in a sample of soil.
- **Structure** = how soil particles are arranged

Create Healthy Soil – add organic matter!
- Organic matter balances soil structure
- Living organisms help make existing minerals & nutrients more available to plants
- Compost helps retain water, suppress weeds, reduce erosion

Protect Soil - Prevent Erosion
- Do project just a little bit at a time
- Add mulch to prevent erosion
- Plant slopes with mixture of species

Water Conservation

Plan Ahead:
Learn your soil type to determine which irrigation method, frequency & duration are best

Be Water Wise:
- **Right Plant, Right Place** – Grouping Plants with similar water needs together
- **Timing** – Time watering to reduce evaporation. Morning is best – cool air temp & still air
- **Method** – Drip/Soaker Hoses deliver water directly to root system
- **Maintain for Efficiency** – Weed regularly, apply mulch to discourage weeds, check irrigation system for proper function
- Allow lawn to go dormant in summer, or remove your lawn!
- Plant drought tolerant/native plants

Pest Management

Philosophy: Tolerate / Accept Imperfections!

Prevention:
- Soil Preparation – encourage healthy plants
- Mulch – weed suppression & moisture retention
- Wise Plant Choices – right plant, right place

ID the Problem:
- Identify the problem and learn its life cycle to determine best control method

Controls:
- **Mechanical** – traps, hand picking, spray w/ hose
- **Biological** – beneficial insects, birds, bats
- **Chemical** – Use only as last resort!
  - Use least toxic possible
  - Read labels and follow directions carefully