

Village of Rye Brook

Stormwater Management Program

Dear Village Residents, Business Owners and Visitors:

On March 10, 2003, the Village of Rye Brook began the development of its Stormwater Management Plan, mandated by the United States Department of Environmental Protection and administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The plan requires that the Village make every effort to improve the water quality of its streams, lakes and rivers. The Village must implement six (6) minimum control measures including educating the public, soliciting participation and involvement of the public, detection and elimination of illicit discharges, control of construction site runoff, maintenance and operation of post construction structural Best Management Practices and pollution prevention and good housekeeping at municipal facilities.

Recognizing the need for improving the quality of our surface waters, the Village passed legislation in the initial stages of its Stormwater Management Program, designed to control the quantity and quality of runoff from new development and redevelopment, and insure that stormwater runoff from a project, once completed, created minimal or no impact on water quality. Rye Brook has been a proponent of maintaining and improving water quality and is part of a municipal consortium known as the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC).

Learn what you can about improving stormwater quality by visiting the following websites:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [NPDES Stormwater Program | US EPA](#)
NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation at [Stormwater MS4 Permit And Forms - NYSDEC](#)
Westchester County Planning Department at [Stormwater Management](#)
Center for Watershed Protection at <http://www.cwp.org>
Village of Rye Brook, New York at <http://www.ryebrookny.gov>

Sincerely,

Mayor

Mayor

Honorable Jason A. Klein

Board of Trustees

Honorable Susan R. Epstein
Honorable Stephanie J. Fischer
Honorable David M. Heiser
Honorable Salvatore W. Morlino

Village Administrator: Christopher Bradbury

For further information on Village efforts, or to volunteer to assist the Village, contact
Stormwater Management Coordinator
Michal J. Nowak, Supt. of Public Works
telephone: 914- 939-0753
e-mail: mnowak@ryebrookny.gov



Stormwater Management Bulletin from the Village of Rye Brook

What is Stormwater Pollution:

Stormwater pollution refers to many types of harmful materials that are carried by water (rain water, wash water or snow melt) through the storm drain system to our creeks, Long Island Sound and the Blind Brook. Pollutants suspected to exist in the Blind Brook include: silt and sediments, nutrients, priority organics, pathogens, dissolved oxygen and oxygen demand.

Get Involved:

Volunteers are needed to assist with waterway and roadside cleanup efforts, beautification projects, storm drain stenciling and neighborhood cleanups. Put together a group of friends, plan to meet over coffee and help keep trash and other pollutants out of our waters. Contact the Village's Stormwater Management Coordinator for details.

Dispose of Household Products Carefully:

Many products under the sink or in the garage can harm water quality. Never pour paints, preservatives, brush cleaners and solvents down the drain. Sewers or septic tanks do not treat these materials and they can enter waterways untreated. Buy a product with the least amount of toxic materials. Read labels carefully for use and disposal instructions. Learn about Westchester County's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. For information call 914-813-5425 or log onto the County website at <http://www.westchestergov.com>

Care for your lawn cautiously:

Lawns with trees and shrubs prevent erosion, soak up nutrients before they run off into waterways, and improve soil by adding organic materials. Plant the right grass by testing the soil annually. Use the proper fertilizer, and do not over-fertilize. Improper fertilizing can lead to disease, poor root growth and weed problems. Water your lawn and shrubs only when it is dry by soaking the soil thoroughly. If you have a lawn service, make sure it is customized to your needs.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:

Items which find their way into waterways and storm drains, either by accident or deliberately, decrease water quality and create unsightly conditions. Carelessly discarded trash, illegal connections of waste water and other products, household chemicals, oil, and nutrients from over fertilization of lawns can be washed into drains when it rains and eventually end up in our waterways. In 2006, the Village began a program to locate and identify discharges from illegal connections which decrease water quality and take enforcement action where appropriate. If you think your home or business may have an illegal connection to the storm drain, Contact the Village's Stormwater Management Coordinator to learn how to correct the condition.

For further information, or to assist the Village in its efforts, contact Stormwater **Management Coordinator** Michal J. Nowak, Superintendent of Public Works at 914-939-0753 or e-mail at mnowak@ryebrookny.gov or visit any of the following webpages:

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Westchester County [Stormwater Management](#)

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The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes into local lakes, streams, Long Island Sound and the Blind Brook without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the waste is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

Illicit Discharges or Illicit Connections
Discharges non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contributes to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually into local lakes, streams, Long Island Sound and the Blind Brook. Pollutants suspected to exist in the Blind Brook include: silt and sediments, nutrients, priority organics pathogens, dissolved oxygen and oxygen demand.

Pet Waste

Pet waste left to decay on the sidewalk, or on grass near the street, may be washed into storm drains by rain and snow melt. Water entering storm drains does not receive treatment before it goes to our water resources. All stormwater in the Village of Rye Brook eventually flows to the Blind Brook and Long Island Sound. Many substances deposited on the land cause pollution of our waters including; pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, household chemicals, oil and antifreeze. When pet waste is washed into storm drains, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Most importantly, pet waste may carry disease causing organisms, which make water unsafe. When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only does water quality suffer, your health may be at risk to. Pets, children playing outside, and adults gardening are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria found in pet waste.

You can make a difference by cleaning up after your pet using a plastic bag or pooper scooper. Double wrap the pet waste in a second plastic bag, securing it tightly and put it in either a street waste receptacle or your garbage can at home.

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Supermarkets, Restaurants, Fast Food Outlets and Grocery Stores

Businesses selling food products can conduct common sense practices that require modest changes to routine operations or maintenance practices to reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Follow these Best Management Practices (BMP's) to control pollutant discharges:

PAVEMENT CLEANING: Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris. Dispose of debris in the garbage.

EQUIPMENT CLEANING: Discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer only.

SPILL CLEANUP IN OUTDOOR AREAS: Have commercial spill containment kits in convenient locations for immediate access.

GREASE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL: Store grease in separate covered containers. Recycle.

WASTE DISPOSAL: Inspect dumpsters periodically and replace broken or leaking units. Keep dumpsters covered to prevent stormwater from entering the container. Never dispose of food wastes or liquids associates with food wastes in storm drains.

LITTER CONTROL: Provide an adequate number of trash receptacles for customers and employees. Pick up litter and other wastes daily from outside areas.

LANDSCAPING: Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

TRAINING: Train all employees on what to do in the event of a spill. Designate a person to insure BMP's are followed.

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Retail Gas and Diesel Fuel Outlets

Of any size are potential sources of stormwater pollution. Areas in retail fueling outlets for fuel dispensing, waste receptacles, vending machines and air / water supply areas can lead to the accumulation of automotive fluids, grease and other waste fluids on the ground. All owners and employees of retail fueling outlets can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution.

Best Management Practices

SPOT CLEAN ALL AREAS IMMEDIATELY

Use dry methods such as rags or absorbent materials to clean up leaks and drips. Leaks are not considered cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.

SPILL RESPONSE PLAN *Maintain and update an acceptable Spill Response Plan.*

TRAINING *Regularly train all employees on proper methods of handling and disposing of waste. Ensure all employees are familiar with the Spill Response Plan. Educate employees on Best Management Practices (BMP's) and stormwater and wastewater discharge requirements and prohibitions.*

LABELING *Label all drains within the facility boundaries using paint or stencil, or indicate whether flow is to the storm drain, sewer or oil / water separator.*

INSPECTION *Annually inspect and clean storm drain inlets and catch basin.*

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Parking Lots

Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our creeks, streams, Long Island Sound and the Blind Brook. Materials swept, blown or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to storm drains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, the Village will institute a business education campaign. Information will be provided to businesses owners and large residential facilities in an effort to control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible not only for their own activities, but the activities of their contractors as well.*


Stormwater runoff from parking lots and sidewalk areas can contribute significantly to urban runoff pollution. Automotive fluids, food wastes, grease pesticides, litter, exhaust residue and rubber generated from friction between tires and paved surfaces, as well as landscape wastes are some of the pollutants that can get into the stormwater conveyance system which ultimately flows to Long Island Sound and the Blind Brook.

Owners and operators of parking lots can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Whether your parking lot holds 5 cars or 1,000 cars, a scheduled maintenance program including repairs, sweeping, stormwater catch basin cleaning and debris removal is needed. Your efforts to maintain your parking lot in as clean a condition as possible, along with the efforts of your fellow business persons, will help in safeguarding our waters from pollutants and unsightly debris.


BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Follow these BMP's to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into storm drains. The goal is "only rain in the drain"

- Sweep parking lots frequently, at least weekly, daily is preferable. Small areas can be swept with a broom, whereas larger areas may need a vacuum truck or mechanical sweeper. Dispose of sweepings properly.
- Post signs to control litter and prevent patrons from working with automobile fluids in your parking lot (changing oil, adding transmission fluid, etc.). You could be liable for the mess on your property!
- Use absorbent material to clean up automotive fluids on the parking lot. Dispose of the absorbent properly. Read the instructions on the container or Material Safety Data Sheet for disposal instructions.
- Pick up litter daily, dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Keep dumpster and trash cans covered and areas free of litter.
- Wash water from all cleaning operations must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- If cleaning with water and detergent is needed, use a mobile washing unit that is self contained; do not allow wash water (whether or not it is soapy) to discharge to the storm drain system.
- If using a self-contained mobile cleaner is not possible, collect the washwater and dispose in indoor sinks or drains for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Contact the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities for approval.
- Stencil any storm drains on the property with "No Dumping"
- If you do not have one, prepare a plan of your parking area indicating where stormwater catch basins are located and where they flow to.
- Clean storm drains at least once a year, preferably in the Spring. Dispose of materials properly.



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Floatables

In response to Federal and State water

quality regulations and requirements, the Village of Rye Brook has implemented a Stormwater Management Program.

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Solids and floatable control focuses on using preventative measures to help reduce the amounts of solids and floatable materials which may enter or result from the MS4s. "Solid and floatable materials" means sediment, debris, trash, and other floating, suspended, or settleable solids. The NYSDDEC targets the reduction of solids and floatables since they are one of the most visible pollutants that impact our waters. Many solids on streets come from pavement, tire and vehicle equipment wear, and often contain heavy metals and petroleum hydrocarbons. Solids are also produced by erosion along roads and in the vicinity of stormwater outfall pipes. These solids contribute to siltation of waterways and make streambeds unsuitable for many species reproduction. Solids and floatables also create nuisances such as odors and toxic/corrosive gases. Solids and floatables are also aesthetically unappealing, making water look dirty, turbid and cloudy.

Municipal sweeping of streets and parking lots as well as stormwater catch basin cleaning is a large component of keeping our waterways as free of floatables and debris as possible.

Residents and businesses can do their part by insuring that trash containers are adequately and securely covered when set out for trash collection. On recycling days be sure that cardboard, boxes and newspapers are secured in a container so as not to blow around on windy days. These simple procedures can go a long way in adding to the quality of our stormwater.



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Why is Nitrogen Harmful


Nitrogen is the leading cause of water quality deterioration in Long Island's surface and groundwater. Nitrogen comes primarily from wastewater, such as sewage treatment plants and residential cesspools, fertilizer and stormwater runoff. Discharge from onsite wastewater disposal systems (cesspools and septic systems) reaches groundwater, which ultimately flows to surface waters (bays and estuaries). Excess nitrogen in surface waters stimulates algal (plant) growth which can lead to low oxygen conditions, fish kills, and degraded marine habitats such as marsh land. Small steps can lead to big changes and there are plenty of actions we can take to reduce nitrogen in our waterways. Several organizations including the Long Island Sound Study have come together to encourage you to take the [Reduce Nitrogen Pledge](#). All you have to do is take the pledge and consider the ten simple actions you can take to reduce nitrogen pollution by making small changes in your everyday life.

The pledge includes 10 simple things you can do today.

1. Be smart - fertilize your lawn responsibly but it's best to not use fertilizers at all.
2. Keep grass clippings on the lawn.
3. Inspect and clean your septic system in accordance with Westchester County / local municipal requirements.
4. Sweep up any grass clippings and fertilizer spills on driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
5. Direct gutter downspouts into plant beds (rather than down the driveway).
6. Plant trees and other native plants.
7. Do not leave bare spots or unvegetated areas along curb lines.
8. Pick up pet waste and reduce pollution in your yard.



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Silt and Sediment

This information will help you understand what you need to know with respect to reducing silt and sediment in stormwater. Any human-made change in the natural cover or topography of the land may result in, or contribute to, soil erosion or sedimentation of State and Local waters. This includes grading, perimeter drains, driveways, foundations, backfill, final grade changes, and stockpiling of materials. Maintaining your property is likely one of the many items on your "to do" list. Homeowner s to do list may include; Planting a Garden, General Landscaping, Additions, Controlling of Soil Erosion, Planting Trees & Shrubs, Establishing Rock Gardens and Lawns. If your yard does not have a lawn and landscaping, there may be some important items to keep in mind to prevent soil and debris from leaving your property. This will involve managing some activities on your site and making sure that all proper controls are in place. You will need to take a look around your property to see what soil erosion controls are in place, or needed; determine current drainage patterns; and establish a timeline for putting in your lawn and landscaping. **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Soil Erosion is a major contributor to pollution in our waterways. Uncontrolled runoff during weather events, i.e., wind and rain, can move the soil off- site and into our lakes and streams. The dirt may move off-site through ditches, pipes or across the property and be deposited into a creek, stream or wetland. Sediment can clog pipes and leave streets a muddy mess. Do what you can to help reduce silt and sediment in stormwater.