

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Every drop of water that hits the ground in Brooklyn eventually makes its way into the Quinebaug River and into Long Island Sound. Stormwater can pick up pollutants and become contaminated—this is called Nonpoint Source Pollution. To keep our environment clean and continuing to function properly as part of the high quality of life we enjoy in Brooklyn, we must all do our part to keep pollutants and debris from getting into our stormwater such as:

- ◇ Hydrocarbons: (gas, oil, and grease)
- ◇ Soaps and detergents
- ◇ Fertilizers
- ◇ Pesticides
- ◇ Paint
- ◇ Solvents
- ◇ Trash and other floatables
- ◇ Organic Debris
- ◇ Leaves and grass clippings
- ◇ Pet Waste
- ◇ Septic run-off
- ◇ Metals
- ◇ Sediments (sand and soil)

Storm drains are for rain and snow melt drainage only.
Report illegal dumping to
Brooklyn Town Hall
779-3411

Brooklyn Town Hall
P.O. Box 359
Brooklyn, CT 06234

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What's with all that water on Day Street?



Important information about a project in your neighborhood

Funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant

*Prepared by the
Brooklyn Conservation Commission*

What's happening on Day Street?

Precipitation from rain and snow storms run off of impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots in our planned commercial district and neighborhoods. Conventional storm drains collect this runoff and direct it to the detention pond on Day Street. Some



of this water then infiltrates or seeps into the ground, replenishing our drinking water aquifer and eventually making its way to the Quinebaug River.

The Town's engineered stormwater quality management treatment system (part treatment, part conveyance, part infiltration) helps reduce contamination in stormwater, but homeowners and businesses can do a lot to reduce this *nonpoint* source pollution before the water even gets to the storm drain.

To learn more about what you can do to protect the Quinebaug River, the Long Island Sound and Brooklyn's drinking water :

Call (779-3411) or stop by the Brooklyn Town Hall and ask for a copy of "After The Storm—A Citizens Guide to Understanding Stormwater?"

Log on to the Brooklyn Conservation Commission Web Page for links to water quality information.
www.brooklynct.org/conservation

Join the *Quinebaug River Team* part of The Last Green Valley (Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor) responsible for raising the awareness of the natural, historic and recreational resources of the Quinebaug River watershed.
qrt@hotmail.com

The Effects of NPS Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution in stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

- When sediments such as soil or road sand get into our streams, ponds and rivers, they can cloud the water and degrade fish and aquatic plant habitat.
- Excess nutrients from lawn fertilizers or pet waste can cause algae blooms which remove oxygen from the water and can cause fish and other aquatic organisms to die.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can create human health hazards, in rivers, streams, ponds and drinking water.
- Impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots and even compacted lawns can increase water temperatures in our streams and the Quinebaug River which can damage fish and wildlife habitat.
- Trash and debris such as plastic bags, six pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts-washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic animals like ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life.

- Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or drinking polluted water.

- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

The Brooklyn

Conservation Commission

has installed these markers on storm drains in neighborhoods and our commercial district to help protect the environment and remind you to do your part.



How you can help: Hazardous Waste:

Never pour hazardous materials onto the ground or into storm drains! Recycle or properly dispose of waste products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids. Report chemical spills to DEP 24-hour emergency response (860)424-3338.

Lawn Care:

Use sensible landscaping practices to avoid water contamination. Avoid over watering your lawn and consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Use these chemicals only in the recommended amounts). Try to use organic mulch or safer pest control methods when possible. Don't leave compost or mulch yard waste in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams. Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects. Try rain gardens and grassy swales to help with water infiltration.

Septic Systems and Pet Waste:

Bacteria and nutrients from waste can cause serious human health problems. Have your septic tank inspected every 1-3 years and pumped every 3-5 years. Pick up and dispose of pet waste (flushing is the best method) —never dispose of pet waste in storm drains.

Dumpsters and Trash

Keep litter and debris off of parking lots, driveways and sidewalks - especially near storm drains. Keep trash cans and dumpsters covered. Make sure lids are closed and secured. Prevent spills from dumpsters and grease storage and keep them clean to avoid leaks.

Automotive Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts or changing your oil at home can send contaminants into the system. Dumping contaminants in a storm drain is the same as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody. Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground. Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. Be sure to clean up any spills—it is estimated that one quart of oil can contaminate up to 250,000 gallons of drinking water.

Commercial Property

Businesses should keep a regular schedule of lot sweeping and catch basin maintenance. Commercial property owners can learn more about best management practices by consulting the BCC website: brooklynct.org/conservation