

Potential Contaminant Sources

Potential Contaminant Sources in Brooklyn include:

Roadways which are a potential source of contamination due to spills, accidents, petroleum leaks from vehicles, the application of road salts, and maintenance activity which may include herbicide and pesticide applications.

Residential Land Use, including:

Household chemicals,
Automotive products,
Paint/solvents,
Fuel storage systems,
On-site septic,
Lawn/garden chemicals,
Abandoned wells, and
Riverside/Lakeside homes.

Commercial Land Uses that involve toxic and hazardous materials:

Auto repair, gas stations, car wash,
Road maintenance depots,
Construction areas,
Dry cleaners, Laundromats,
Medical institutions, laboratories,,
Photography establishments, printing facilities
Restaurants, bakeries, and
Woodworking and finishing facilities.

Non-Point Sources of Pollution

Non-point sources are described as dispersed contamination from many sources such as soil erosion, on-site septic systems, storm water discharges, agricultural and silviculture activities, and pollution associated with resource extraction.

Recommended Protection Measures

Develop Zoning Overlay for Brooklyn Potential Aquifer Areas

The regulation should include a map of the designated area and should consider regulating uses that use or generate hazardous material.

Conduct Education and Outreach

Public education and awareness is a key part of this Source Water Protection Plan because everyone poses a risk to ground and surface water.

Implement the DEEP Aquifer Protection Area Program

Implement the CT DEP Aquifer Protection Program when Level A mapping for the Connecticut Water Company well field is complete.

Implement the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) General Permit.

Assist the Brooklyn Agriculture Commission

Work with the Agriculture Commission to provide outreach to agricultural producers regarding best management practices and programs available through the USDA to implement those practices.

Prepared by: Marc Cohen, mcohen@asrwwa.org

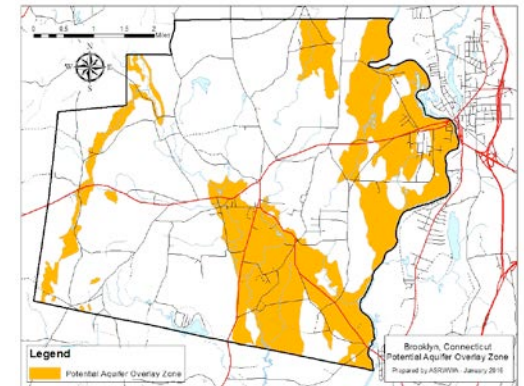


What you can do to Protect Brooklyn Groundwater

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission* has developed a plan to protect Brooklyn's groundwater.

Take a look inside to see what you can do as a Brooklyn resident to protect this vital resource and insure we have adequate and safe drinking water for all town residents.

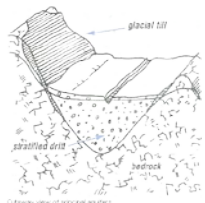
The town's stratified aquifers** have been identified as a priority area for their potential to provide large quantities of drinking water.



Potential contaminant sources and recommended protection measures from the plan are listed on the back the brochure.

* Along with representatives from the Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Agriculture Commission, and Land Use and Public Works staff.

** A stratified drift aquifer is comprised of layered deposits of sand, gravel, silt and clay laid down thousands of years ago by glacial meltwaters.



Take Care of Your Septic System Faulty septic systems can pollute local waters. Systems should be inspected every three to five years and tanks pumped as needed. Don't drive or park anywhere on your septic system. Plant only grass over and near the system.



Don't Flush Medications Old or unwanted prescription drugs and over the counter medications flushed down the toilet or drain can end up in our waters and harm organisms living there. Crush pills and tablets. Put the medicine into a sealable plastic bag. Place the sealed bag in the trash.



Minimize the Use of Hazardous Products Cleaning and other household products contain many hazardous chemicals. Read labels and try to use the least harmful products available. Don't dispose of products down the toilet or drain. Store household hazardous chemicals (e.g., oil based paint, pesticides, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, pool chemicals).until they can be taken to a Hazardous Materials Collection event. Oil based paint may be taken to the transfer station.



Recycle Used Motor Oil...Do not dispose of used oil in the trash, on the ground, or to sewers or waterways. Contact the transfer station to find out if they have a used oil collection tank. Also, some service stations will take used oil.



Reduce Your Lawn Create "no-mow zones" of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees, especially as buffers near ponds and streams. This reduces water, fertilizer, and pesticide use and provides a welcoming habitat for wildlife.



Fertilize Smart Have your soil tested before applying fertilizer to your lawn to see if it even needs it. Don't over fertilize - more is not better. During rainstorms, nutrients from fertilizers can wash off lawns into



local waters where the excess nutrients promote algae blooms, including some algae that are harmful to people and pets. Algae blooms cause a decrease in oxygen in the water which endangers aquatic life and can cause fish kills. Use phosphorus fertilizer for new lawns only, unless the soil test shows a need for phosphorus on an established lawn. Sweep up fertilizer that spills on hard surfaces. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn can reduce your fertilizer needs by up to 25%.

Use Less Lawn and Garden Pesticides



Investigate use of biological controls and products with natural ingredients. Read the labels - apply the right amount at the right time and be aware of the toxicity warnings.

Conserve Water Don't overwater your lawn. Lawns need only one inch of water per week (from either watering or rain). Excessive water use, especially in summer, can dramatically reduce flow in rivers and streams, harming aquatic life. If your house is connected to a public sewer, conserving water will help reduce the discharge from your wastewater treatment facility into local waters AND save you money! If you use a septic system, water conservation helps prevent system failures.



Reduce Runoff Increase the amount of stormwater absorbed into the ground by directing down- spouts onto your lawn, not onto paved surfaces where the runoff could pick up oil, yard waste, and other debris. Install a rain barrel and use the water for plantings. Install a rain garden to increase the amount of stormwater absorbed into the ground.

Learn about Brooklyn's Waters and Get Out and Enjoy Them Kayak, canoe, fish, go



birding or walk near wetlands or along the shore. Explore Brooklyn's many accessible wetlands and streams and learn more about what you can do to help protect them. Visit

www.brooklynct.org/conservation-commission/pages/brooklyn-trails for a trails map!