BRIARCLIFF MANOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT 45 INGHAM ROAD BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

MS4PY13 STORMWATER PROGRAM

FACT SHEET #1 October 2022

IMPACTS OF STORMWATER RUNOFF ON OUR DRINKING WATER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR STORMWATER COORDINATOR:

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1. IMPACTS OF STORMWATER ON OUR DRINKING WATER

Stormwater runoff is the leading cause of pollution to our drinking water sources. It runs off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, paved roofs, driveways and parking lots. Runoff may collect pollutants such as oil, pesticides, sediments, bacteria, excessive nutrients and other chemicals. These pollutants are carried into nearby rivers, lakes and streams as well as groundwater, which can result in contamination of our drinking water supplies.

2. WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Significant improvements can be achieved by controlling contamination at the source and reducing water usage.

In the Kitchen:

- Fill your sink or basin when rinsing dishes
- Only run dishwasher when it is full
- Only use garbage disposal when necessary

Laundry:

- Run full loads of laundry
- Avoid the permanent-press cycle, which uses an added 5 gallons
- For partial loads, adjust water levels to match the size of the load

Fit Faucets and Sinks with Aerators

- Fit faucets and sinks with low-flow aerators, which save water

Drought-Resistant Lawns, Shrubs and Plants:

- Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants

- Ask your local nursery for tips about native plants and grasses with low water usage
- Consider planting more trees, shrubs, ground covers, instead of grass
- Use native plants in the flower bed that have adapted to your rainfall conditions

Efficient Outdoor Watering Systems:

- Only water the lawn when needed. Turn off sprinklers during rain events
- When rainfall is not sufficient, you can greatly reduce the amount of water usage by utilizing soaker hoses

3. EMPLOYING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACICES, OR "BMPs"

Significant improvements can be achieved by controlling contamination at the source.

Nutrients:

- Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen promote the overgrowth of algae and deplete oxygen in the waterway. Apply fertilizers in the proper amount, at the right time of year and with the right method

Bacteria:

-Bacteria from animal wastes and illicit connections to sewerage systems make our waterways unsafe for wading and swimming. Clean up pet wastes and get sanitary systems inspected regularly.

Oil and Grease:

-Oil and grease from automobiles cause sheen and odors that make the transfer of oxygen difficult for aquatic organisms. Use commercial car washes if possible.

Sediment:

-Sediment from construction sites cloud waterways and interfere with the habitat of living things that depend on these waterways. Have a proper SWIPP plan in place.

Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers:

-These chemicals affect the health off living organisms and cause ecosystem imbalances. Apply sparingly and use only recommended amounts.

4. THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Alternative stormwater management practices include:

- Rain Gardens
- Permeable Paving Surfaces
- Filter Strips
- Grassed Swales
- Infiltration Basins
- Planter Boxes and
- Natural Native Vegetation

These are examples of attractive and water-friendly alternatives to the conventional stormwater management practices. Remember because of our location in or near the East of the Hudson Watershed, we have a special responsibility to protect our water resources.