

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns while picking up a variety of materials on its way. Stormwater runoff carries litter, oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, sediments, and anything else that can float, dissolve, or be swept along by the moving water. Polluted stormwater can reach nearby waterways where it can harm and even kill aquatic life, and make waterbodies unsafe for wading, swimming, boating, and fishing. It can also pollute groundwater and degrade the quality of drinking water. Always sweep up litter and debris from walkways and sidewalks, roadways, parking lots, and especially around storm drains.

**BEST  
MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES (BMPs)**

## Illicit Discharges

### Definition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines an illicit discharge as, "any discharge into a storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater."

### Potential Sources of Illicit Discharges...

- **Reducing Litter to Waterways:** Litter damages the aesthetics of our community and poses a threat to wildlife and human health. It can break down into microplastics which are difficult to remove and toxic to wildlife. Trash becomes litter when it falls from an overflowing bin and when it piles up at illegal dumping sites. Improper trash disposal can lead to litter entering our local waterways which pollutes the water and clogs storm sewer pipes. Additionally, leaf litter and waste dumped into stormwater drains can cause dangerous pollutants to enter the waterways.
- **Lawns and Landscaping - Fertilizers:** Fertilizer washes away with the rain and can add harsh chemicals to the waterways, promoting algae growth that can kill fish and wildlife and contaminate ground water.
- **Pet Waste:** Pet waste is a major source of bacteria that can result in transmission of infections and diseases.
- **Snow and Ice Management:** Snow and ice can create dangerous conditions in the winter. Deicers are a useful tool for managing icy steps and pathways. However, the overuse of deicers poses serious risks to water quality, plants, and trees.
- **Auto Care:** Oils, grease, and cleaning fluids can kill aquatic life.



Report illicit discharges (e.g., spills or contaminants) on District property to the Director of Facilities & Operations, Xavier Hernandez Delgado, at **(914) 422-2050**



# How can you

DO YOUR PART?



## 1. Reducing Litter to Waterways:

- Always place trash in appropriate bins, and never leave trash next to or on top of an overflowing bin. Leaf litter and waste should be disposed of properly, never in the street or drain. Learn how to properly dispose of recyclables and non-recyclable waste, and compost food waste. You can do this by visiting the [City of White Plains](#) website to find out what items can be recycled and composted.
- See the [We Future Cycle](#) website for information on programs that the District participates in to help reduce waste.
- See the following EPA resources for additional information on reducing waste pollution:
  - [What You Can Do About Trash Pollution](#)
  - [Litter Management](#)

## 2. Lawns and Landscaping – Fertilizers

- Use fertilizers and pesticides only if you have to. When you do, try and use sparingly.
- Where possible, try and use a bio-friendly natural compost instead.
- Avoid using fertilizer before a rainstorm or in excess.
- Keep chemicals off paved surfaces and sweep up spills.
- Mow lawns to the appropriate height to reduce the need for fertilizers.
- Improve your soil and conserve water by using composts and mulch.
- Help rainwater soak into the ground by directing roof and driveway runoff towards grassed areas or areas with plantings. This will slow surface runoff where rainfall ends up immediately in storm drains. Instead, water will have more time to filter down into the local water table.

## 3. Pet Waste

- Don't leave pet waste on the ground. Scoop it, bag it, and dispose of it properly.

## 4. Snow and Ice Management

Consider the following precautionary steps from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies that can be taken to decrease the amount of deicer needed, while still maintaining safe conditions:

- Shovel the snow early and often. If the temperature drops after a snowstorm, the snow can turn icy and be harder to remove.
- Deicers work best on a thin layer of ice. The more scraping and removal of ice that you can do, the less deicer you will need to use.
- After removing all snow and ice, sprinkle salt sparingly.
- As the sun comes out or the temperature rises, the deicer will make a slushy mixture of water and ice. Remove this before the temperature drops again and you should have an ice-free surface until the next storm.

## 5. Auto Care

You can prevent these contaminants from polluting groundwater by:

- Washing cars on lawn or gravel surfaces with an environmentally friendly cleaner, or by using a commercial car wash that collects, treats, and recycles its wastewater.
- Use drip pans to collect auto fluids and fix leaks promptly.
- Clean up spills with dry absorbent materials. Kitty litter is excellent for this.
- Dispose of oil and grease properly.



# Silt and Sediment Pollution and Solutions



## About

The District's stormwater discharges to the Long Island Sound through the Mamaroneck River, which is impaired with silt and sediments. According to the [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer \(MS4\) General Permit \(GP-0-24-001\)](#), MS4s whose outfalls discharge to waters impaired with silt and sediment must develop and implement the pollutant specific BMPs, listed in Part VIII of the MS4 General Permit, targeted towards the Pollutant of Concern (POC) causing the impairment.

Silt and sediment can be transported via stormwater runoff into waterbodies during activities such as excavation or can be dislodged and eroded dependent upon soil types, storm intensities, slopes and land coverage characteristics.

Stormwater runoff that contains sediment can deposit harmful amounts of silt in sensitive areas such as wetlands and wildlife preserves, harming habitat needed by aquatic insects and plants. Sediment blocks sunlight needed by aquatic plants to grow and can carry toxic chemicals that deplete oxygen in water bodies. Thus, it can disrupt ecosystems and threaten drinking water supplies. Potential sources of silt and sediment in the District could include soil erosion from construction sites, lawns, and gardening/landscaping activities.

## How can you

### DO YOUR PART?

- Reduce exposed soils on your property by adding grass, mulch, and/or plantings.
- Install erosion and sediment controls for construction projects, such as silt fencing and inlet protection.

## ADDITIONALLY...

### MORE LINKS TO STORMWATER RESOURCES:

- [NYSDEC Stormwater](#)
- [USEPA Stormwater](#)
- [Clean Up After Your Pet to Keep Water Clean](#)
- [Pet Waste Pollution](#)
- [Sediment Pollution and Solutions](#)
- [Silt and Sediment Brochure](#)
- [Common Sediment and Erosion Control Solutions](#)
- [New Homeowner's Guide to Erosion and Sediment Control](#)
- [Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners](#)

