

We Work Together for Clean Water

Your community is a leader in the effort to end water pollution and ensure that you and your family—and generations to come—can enjoy clean water.

As a member of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP), they have made a strong commitment toward a healthy future.

NSP aims to help towns and cities reduce water pollution, comply with federal pollution reduction requirements, and save money through regional cooperation.

Learn more at YourCleanWater.org



Avon • Canton • Dedham • Foxborough • Medfield • Milton
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with the Neponset River Watershed Association
and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Neponset River Watershed Association
on behalf of your water department
2173 Washington Street
Canton, MA 02021

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Let's keep water clean for future generations





**Contaminated runoff
pollutes the Neponset,
Charles, and Taunton
Rivers—and our
oceans.
You can help solve
the problem.**

Reduce Fertilizer Use

Fertilizers (nitrogen and phosphorus) are good for plants but bad for water pollution.

When fertilizer runoff gets into ponds, streams, and rivers, it causes toxic aquatic habitat and fish kills.

Take steps to protect waterways:

- Never fertilize before a rainstorm. Rain will carry the fertilizer away, wasting your money and polluting waterways.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn with a mulching mower. Clippings are a free natural fertilizer.
- Keep clippings, leaves and yard waste off of pavement and away from storm drains and wetlands.
- Use slow-release fertilizers instead of fast-release fertilizers.
- Test your soil to determine the exact needs of your lawn and avoid over-fertilizing.
- Check to see if your business or lawn service complies with the MA turf fertilizer law.



Get Your Lawn Tested

Half of all lawn owners fertilize their lawn, but only 10–20% get regular soil tests. (Center for Watershed Protection, 1999). An inexpensive soil test can reduce unnecessary fertilizer use and save you money on lawn care fees.

Visit YourCleanWater.org/lawn for step-by-step instructions to get a detailed soil report with targeted fertilizer recommendations for your exact lawn.

Pick Up After Your Dog

When dog poop is left on the ground, rain and snow wash it into storm drains that empty directly into local streams, ponds, beaches, and drinking water sources.

Not only is dog waste gross to step in, it can cause significant health issues, including Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, and Toxocariasis.

Every time you walk your dog, please:

- Carry a bag or scooper to pick up pet waste,
- Dispose of the bag or waste in a trash can,
- Never toss anything down a storm drain!

In many communities, dog owners can be fined for failing to scoop the poop.



Don't Litter

Trash that blows, washes, or is dumped into wetlands, waterways, and storm drains ends up in our rivers and flows to the ocean—and runoff is the main source of plastic pollution in our oceans.

Always remember...

- Storm drains are not trash cans! Never throw or pour anything in a storm drain. It's illegal!
- Litter left on the street will wash into the nearest storm drain.
- Yard waste is trash too, never dump it in or near a storm drain, stream or wetland.
- Keep dumpsters and trash cans closed and ensure container drainage ports are plugged at all times. Open dumpsters and cans fill with rain, which leaks out as highly polluted "dumpster juice" and attracts rats.



Do Your Part!

Your local waterways and groundwater are an important source of drinking water, recreation, and wildlife habitats.

Follow the steps in this brochure to reduce pollutants at your home or business and to protect local waterways.

Visit YourCleanWater.org to learn more about stormwater.



Report Water Pollution

If you see any signs of pollution affecting a storm drain or a waterway report it to the Stormwater Pollution Hotline:

781-575-0354 x300

YourCleanWater.org/report

