

It's Time to Protect Our Local Waterways

The watersheds of the Neponset, Charles, Taunton, and Fore rivers contain a large number of beautiful and diverse water bodies, including:

- Neponset Reservoir and Cocasset Lake in Foxborough
- Willett Pond, Bird Pond, and Clarks Pond in Walpole
- Buckmaster Pond in Westwood
- Lake Massapoag in Sharon
- Reservoir Pond and Ponkapoag Pond in Canton
- Woods Pond and Ames Long Pond in Stoughton
- The 29 mile-long Neponset River and the 80 mile-long Charles River, which both flow to Boston Harbor
- Dozens of other ponds, streams, and brooks

Unfortunately, too many of our streams and ponds are affected by **polluted stormwater runoff**. This leads to water quality issues that impact recreation, wildlife—and drinking water.

Fortunately, your town is working to reduce polluted stormwater runoff to ensure the enjoyment of clean water for generations to come.

As a member of the **Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP)** your town is committed to reducing water pollution, complying with federal pollution reduction requirements, and saving money through regional cooperation.



We Can't Do It Alone

Our towns can't reduce polluted stormwater runoff without help from residents and business owners. Please read the tips in this brochure to learn what you can do at home and work.

For more information about the NSP, or about reducing polluted stormwater runoff, please visit www.YourCleanWater.org

To report any dumping or illicit discharges, please call the NSP Stormwater Hotline at 781-575-0354 x 300 or email stormwater@neponset.org

Win a free rain barrel!

Take our online stormwater survey and be automatically entered to win a 65-gallon rain barrel from the Great American Rain Barrel Company. Details at www.YourCleanWater.org/survey



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Clean water is everything!



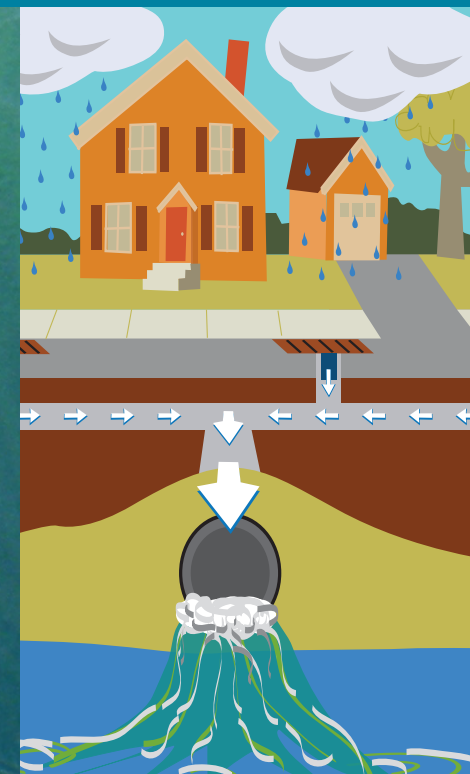
The Neponset Stormwater Partnership is a program of the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA).

NSP member towns include Canton, Dedham, Foxborough, Medfield, Milton, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood, along with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Visit neponset.org for more information about NepRWA.

Let's work together to protect our water resources.

Many of the streams and ponds in the Neponset, Charles, Taunton, and Fore River watersheds are getting contaminated by **polluted stormwater runoff**.



Polluted stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt washes oil, gasoline, fertilizer, ice melt, dog waste—and other bacteria, chemicals, and trash—off of streets, parking lots, and impervious surfaces and into storm drains.

Storm drains connect to our local streams and ponds and deliver the polluted stormwater directly into our waterways.

We Need Your Help

Polluted stormwater runoff is the **#1 cause of water pollution** in our watersheds and it affects our drinking water resources, recreation, and wildlife.

Our cities and towns are working to reduce polluted stormwater runoff from public properties, but they need your help around homes and businesses.

Take these simple steps around your home and business to help keep our water clean!

- Always pick up after your pet and throw the waste into a trash can. Bacteria from pet waste is a major source of water pollution.
- Build rain gardens, which are shallow, vegetated “basins” that collect and filter polluted stormwater runoff.
- Redirect the runoff from your roof by turning your downspouts toward a lawn, garden, or wooded area. This prevents runoff and allows the water to soak into the ground naturally.
- When building walkways, patios, or driveways, use pervious pavers, stones, or other pervious materials, so that rain can pass right through to the soil.
- Install rain barrels to capture roof runoff for later use, especially during drought. Rainwater is free of chlorine and great for watering plants.
- Use “greener” ice melt products to minimize the harmful effects of salt in our water and on our plants. “Pet safe” products are a good choice.
- Avoid fertilizers and keep yard waste away from storm drains. Lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, and leaves are high in phosphorous, which is a major water pollutant.
- Wash your car on the lawn or park it in an area where the water will run off into the grass. Better yet, go to a car wash, which recycles and conserves water.
- Clean up chemical spills, like fertilizer, pesticides, or motor oil off of driveways and sidewalks. Use kitty litter for absorption.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways, and patios. Sweeping will prevent runoff and conserve water.
- Be sure that your sprinklers are only watering the lawn and not creating runoff on the driveway or sidewalk.
- Never pour anything into a storm drain. Always remember, only rain down the drain!

Pick Up After Your Dog



Build a Rain Garden



Redirect Runoff



Use Pervious Materials



Install a Rain Barrel



Use Safer Ice Melt



Avoid Lawn Chemicals



Wash Cars on the Lawn



• • • **Learn more about polluted stormwater runoff at YourCleanWater.org**