

Does stormwater pollution effect me?

Polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to almost 40% of water bodies in the United States that do not meet water quality standards. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of habitats for fish, wildlife, and aquatic life; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health because of contaminated food, drinking water, and recreational waterways.

Something else you should know.

The following are considered illegal discharges into the Town's municipal stormwater drainage system; any solid waste, construction debris, paint or painting product, antifreeze, hazardous waste, oil, gasoline, grease and all other automotive and petroleum products, solvents and degreasers, drain cleaners, commercial and household cleaners; soap, detergent, ammonia, food and food waste, grass or yard waste, leaves, animal feces, dirt, sand, gravel, or other pollutant.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to call the following phone number for assistance.

STORMWATER HOTLINE:
Call: 781-235-7600 ext.3318
Email: stormwater@wellesleyma.gov

The following uses are acceptable to discharge into the Town stormwater system:

1. Individual residential car washing.
2. Flushing of the Town's water distribution system.
3. Discharges related to fire fighting.
4. Emergency pumping of uncontaminated water from flooded basements.
5. Temporary emptying of dechlorinated swimming pools.
6. Irrigation.
7. Dye testing.
8. Discharges for which a NPDES* permit has been obtained.

*National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
Under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES program, is aimed at reducing and eliminating pollution from discrete sources of wastewater, known as "point sources," to waters of the United States. (Source: EPA)

Stormwater Rules & Regulations

http://wellesleyma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/WellesleyMA_DPW/1engStormwaterRegs.pdf



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**WELLESLEY
DPW**

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION

Why should I care about it?

Does it really effect me?



What is Stormwater?

Water that falls from the sky as rain or snow is considered stormwater. The water that is not absorbed into the ground flows off paved surfaces, dirt surfaces, landscaped surfaces, houses and buildings, and drains into one of Wellesley's many waterways or waterbodies. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and pollutants as it flows through our community. The stormwater then travels into waterways or waterbodies and can potentially contaminate them. With your help we can keep our stormwater clean to provide proper habitat for fish, plants, animals, swimmers and boaters.



Wellesley's Stormwater System

Stormwater that falls into the Town streets enters our brooks, lakes and ponds through ditches, inlets, and pipes. Stormwater is also introduced into our brooks from private properties that adjoin the brooks. Wellesley is a residential community with many lakes, ponds and brooks that running through it. These waterways ultimately discharge into the Charles River. The Town also has an extensive stormwater drainage system that discharges into the waterways and waterbodies, which are summarized below.

Lakes

Lake Waban and Sabrina Lake.

Ponds

Abbott's Pond, Town Hall Duck Pond, Longfellow Pond, Morse's Pond, Paintshop Pond, Reed's Pond, Rockridge Pond, Skating Pond, Farms Station Pond, and Wight's Pond.

Brooks

Abbott Brook, Academy Brook, Bogle Brook, Boulder Brook, Caroline Brook, Cold Spring Brook, Cold Stream Brook, Fuller Brook, Hurd Brook, Indian Spring Brook, Pollock Brook, Rosemary Brook, Sunnyside Brook and Waban Brook.

Why should I care about it?

Each of us contributes to stormwater pollution. If not by knowingly discarding items into the right of way, we unknowingly place or position materials that are removed by stormwater and introduced into our waterways. Daily activities that you may not have considered harmful have been shown to contribute to poor water quality. How you perform these activities will affect our stormwater quality. Take a look at the suggestions below to find ways you can help reduce pollutants entering our waterways and waterbodies.



Automobile Maintenance

Oil, grease, anti-freeze and other toxic automotive fluids too often make their way into the stormdrain system through catch basins, floor drains, etc. Avoid spills by utilizing drip pans and funnels when pouring and draining fluids. Spills that do occur should be addressed promptly and thoroughly and serious spills should be reported to the appropriate authorities. Automotive fluids and hazardous materials should be stored in a well-maintained covered area. Remember to recycle motor oil, oil filters, anti-freeze and other hazardous automotive fluids, batteries, tires and metal filings. Under no condition should these materials be disposed of in a catch basin or other inlet that discharges to the Town's waterways and waterbodies. When washing your vehicle consider using a car wash to prevent detergent, grease and oil from entering the stormwater system.

Household Activities

Households produce waste that, if introduced into our stormwater system, can have an adverse impact on our waterways and waterbodies. Most household hazardous waste is leftover products that are found in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, and garage and are discarded. Placement of these items down the drain, into the stormwater system, or on the ground is not permitted and can have adverse environmental impacts. All household chemicals and hazardous waste should be properly discarded at the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF). A special Household Hazardous Waste Day is conducted annually.

When using landscaping chemicals always follow application and disposal directions listed on the product's label. Do not apply these chemicals within 100 feet of waterways. Sweep up any fertilizer cast onto parking lots and sidewalks, and place back in container.



Pet Care

Besides being a nuisance, pet waste can pollute our waterways and waterbodies if not disposed of properly. During rainfall, pet waste left outdoors can wash into storm drains. This waste flows directly into our brooks, lakes and ponds where it can harm human health and the ecology of our waterways.

As it decomposes, pet waste requires a high level of oxygen from water. This decomposition can contribute to the reduction of dissolved oxygen available to water life, causing a population decrease in fish and other aquatic life.

Please carry a bag with you and pick up after your pets when taking walks or hikes. Many of Wellesley's Parks and Recreation areas have bags at conspicuous locations for this purpose. Dispose of your pet's waste in an appropriate container or in a toilet. Taking care of your pet's waste will help to improve the cleanliness of our community as well as improving the water quality of our waterways and waterbodies.