

HOW HOMEOWNERS CAN PROTECT OUR LAKES, RIVERS, AND WELLS.



Some tips from the Environmental Commission.

Pollution on streets, parking lots, and lawns is washed by rain and snow-melt into our lakes, rivers, and the aquifers that supply our wells.



This runoff is one of the greatest threats to our water.

Here are some easy ways for homeowners to help prevent this pollution.

- Think about the **ultimate destination of rainwater and snow-melt** on your property and in your neighborhood. Consider what kinds of pollutants can be carried by runoff into road gutters, storm drains, catch basins, or directly into our lakes and rivers or downward through the soil to our aquifers.
- **Never dump** gas or oil, grass trimmings, leaves, animal waste, soaps or other pollutants or litter into road gutters, storm drains, catch basins, and don't dispose of them near or in our lakes or rivers.



- Landscape your yard to minimize rainwater runoff and plant a substantial buffer along the shores of streams and lakes to keep runoff and pollutants out of the water. **Shoreline buffers** also discourage Canada geese from settling at your lake.
- Divert rain from paved surfaces onto grass or planted areas to permit gradual infiltration.
- Preserve the established **trees and shrubs** on your property and in your neighborhood, as they help to trap pollutants and minimize erosion. Shade from trees also protects sensitive water habitats by keeping water temperatures from over-heating.



- Choose appropriate **native plants**, shrubs and trees* for your landscaping and don't select plants that will need lots of watering or fertilizers.
- Minimize or avoid the use of **pesticides and fertilizers**, never over-use them, and avoid fertilizers that contain phosphates.

*The Environmental Commission has several lists of native plants. Please call Margaret McGarrity at 973-347-2500 ext. 138.