

TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM

NEW JERSEY

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Summer 2020

To all Byram residents and business owners:

Stormwater pollution is one of NJ's greatest threats to our clean and plentiful water. Every time it rains, snows, sleet or hails, the precipitation washes pollution/debris from our streets, parking lots and lawns. This polluted water then filters into our lakes, rivers, wetlands, our wells and also gets into our storm sewer systems.

Some examples of the most common debris and contaminants that are washed into our waterways include:

- Litter
- Leaves, grass clippings, soil
- Gas and oil (mostly from slicks from cars and mowers)
- Fertilizers and pesticides (from our lawns and gardens)
- Pet wastes
- Soaps and cleaners we use on our cars and homes
- Effluent from failing or poorly maintained septic systems

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, run-off from lawns, roads and rooftops is the number one cause of pollution in our waterways. This means extra fertilizer from your lawn, oil and gas from building sites, litter, pesticides, sand and salt are polluting our lakes and rivers more than any other source!

As a resident or business owner in Byram Township, it is important that you do what you can to protect our water. I've attached some helpful tips on what you can do to minimize our risk. Please join me in protecting our lakes, streams, wetlands and wells by being as thoughtful and careful as possible about the things you do in or around your home and your business. Byram is the Township of Lakes and we all appreciate the beauty and pleasures provided from our two dozen lakes and ponds, Musconetcong River, Lubbers Run and our many smaller streams. Whether you live or work in Byram, the stormwater that runs off your property ultimately winds up in those waterways.

For your convenience, this letter is available on our website, along with the Township ordinances that support the information provided in the attachment. For more information, please read the enclosed tips and visit our website, www.byramtwp.org.

Thank you for your continued support to keep Byram clean!

Sincerely,



Joseph Sabatini

Township Manager

Byram Township needs your help to keep our waterways clean! Please support our stormwater program by doing your part to responsibly dispose of waste in the proper manner. Below are some of the many ways in which YOU can do your part. For additional detailed information, please visit our Township website at www.byramtwp.org.

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Water from rain and melting snow that flows over lawns, parking lots and streets is known as stormwater runoff. This water, which travels along gutters, into catch basins and through storm drain pipes and ditches, usually is not treated, but then flows or is discharged into local waterbodies. Along the way, the stormwater picks up trash (fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts, styrofoam cups, etc.) and toxins and other pollutants (gas, motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, pesticides and pet droppings). This polluted stormwater can kill fish and other wildlife, destroy wildlife habitat, contaminate drinking water sources and force the closing of beaches because of health threats to swimmers.

Human activity is largely responsible for the stormwater pollution. Everything that we put on the ground or into the storm drain can end up in our water. Each of us has a responsibility to make sure these contaminants stay out of our water. Whether we have clean water is up to you. Please do your part to keep Byram's waterways clean!

Visit www.cleanwaternj.org for additional information.

Algae Blooms on Bodies of Water – Harmful algae blooms (HAB) can occur when certain environmental conditions are met (light, temperature, calm water and presence of certain nutrients due to excessive run-off). Nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen from lawn products may find their way to our waterways and contribute to HABs. Please consider using environmentally friendly products on your lawns. Note that Byram Township does not own any of the lakes in our area. Should you have questions regarding HAB in a specific lake, please contact the appropriate lake association or entity that owns the lake. The NJDEP website, contains additional information.

Pet Waste – Pet waste that is left on the ground is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it out to our rivers, lakes, the ocean and our drinking water. With over 700 licensed dogs in Byram Township, it is very important that all pet owners immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any public or private property. Solid waste should be disposed of by either placing the wrapped waste in the trash or flushing it unwrapped down the toilet. People with assistance animals such as Seeing Eye dogs are exempt.

Wildlife Feeding – Please do not feed wildlife on any public or Township owned properties. "People" food isn't a healthy diet for wild animals. Feeding wildlife can also make wild animals lose their natural fear of humans and become problematic.

Litter Control – When enjoying Byram's scenic trails and parks, please dispose of any waste in the trash or recycling containers which are provided – or carry it home with you. If you are a pet owner, please carry out any solid waste that may be generated.

Twice a year, the Township's Environmental Commission sponsors trail clean-ups. Participants remove any trash and perform light trail maintenance. If you are interested in participating in a future trail clean-up, please email dfett@byramtwp.org.

Improper Disposal of Waste – Waste that is not properly disposed of is not only unattractive to see on our roadways and parks, it also finds its way into our numerous waterways, contaminating our water supply. In addition, it has the potential to cause injuries to both wildlife and humans. Residents may be subject to penalties for improper waste disposal. For questions regarding proper disposal of items, please review the Township website or call Blue Diamond at 973-598-9800. Residents are invited to utilize Recycle Coach to determine how to dispose of items and obtain email reminders of trash and recycle days. Recycle Coach can be found on the Township website under Garbage and Recycling.

Containerized Waste – Curbside garbage is picked up by Blue Diamond every Tuesday. Please ensure trash containers are left outside Monday night after 5pm or no later than 6am on Tuesday morning. Blue Diamond also picks up our curbside recycling, which occurs every other Friday. Residents may place all recyclable materials in the same container(s) without the need to separate them by type. For the recycling schedule and other garbage and recycling details, please visit www.byramtwp.org under Township Offices. Residents are invited to utilize Recycle Coach to determine how to dispose of items and obtain email reminders of trash and recycle days. Recycle Coach can be found on the Township website under Garbage and Recycling.

Yard Waste Collection – We encourage residents to compost leaves and grass clippings if possible. The Township Recycling Center provides residents with the option to safely dispose of leaves (either loose or in biodegradable bags) and offers curbside pick-up of leaves in biodegradable bags in the Fall on select days. Grass clippings can be brought to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority located in Lafayette. Please note there is a charge to do this. A disposal area for brush, twigs and branches that are under 4" in diameter is also available in the Township Recycling Center. The leaf and brush areas are open daily for residential use during daylight hours (weather dependent).

Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting – A program is in place to protect existing storm drain inlets within Byram Township. Storm drain inlets include grates which collect and prevent the discharge of solids and floatables (plastic bottles, cans, litter, etc.). To protect our storm drains, residents are reminded they may not reconstruct or alter any surface that is in contact with an existing storm drain inlet.

Illicit Connections – Unauthorized connections to Byram's storm sewer system or disposing of non-stormwater materials is not permitted. Materials collected in the system ultimately wind up in the Township waterways, which should be avoided in order to protect our waterways.

Byram Township's municipal ordinances can be found at www.byramtwp.org under Township Codes.

What else can residents do to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff?

- Plant trees, groundcover or native vegetation that minimizes the use of lawns, fertilizers and pesticides
- Add a rain garden in your yard
- Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater from gutters
- Limit the watering of lawns
- Limit the amount of paved areas
- Separate pavement from other hard surfaces with a vegetative border
- If you have a septic, pump it regularly

A MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION CONCERNING PLASTICS

Plastic pollution has increased around the globe and these plastics can now be found in the air, on land and in our waterways. In addition to large plastic materials that are readily seen, microplastics are also being found around the world. A study recently completed in the Western National Parks indicated more than 2 million pounds of microplastics were found in the parks and national lands in the West alone. This amounts to the equivalent of 123 million plastic bottles!¹

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are generated primarily from single use plastics, synthetic fabrics, tires, paint and microbeads found in toiletries. They are found nearly everywhere on Earth, including our drinking water.^{2,3}

Plastic products take a very long time to decompose. Below are a few examples:

Plastic bag - up to 20 years to decompose

Plastic bottle - up to 100 years to decompose

Monofilament fishing line - up to 600 years to decompose!⁴








According to the EPA, between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year, and each of those bags is used for an average of 12 minutes. NJ residents use 4.4 billion plastic bags each year! Globally, there is currently more plastic in our oceans than plankton; if we do nothing, there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish by 2050!⁵

What Can You Do? Participate in local community clean-ups, dispose of your waste properly and:

- **Reduce** the amount of plastic products used (ex. limit or avoid single use plastic bags, use re-fillable cups rather than single use bottles, limit products with unnecessary packaging, consider clothing with natural fibers rather than synthetic, and using toiletries that don't contain microbeads, etc.),
- **Reuse** items when you can, or consider donating unwanted items rather than discarding them. Refer to our website for re-use opportunities for unwanted items*,
- **Recycle** plastics with # 1-7 recycling logos - please rinse items and remove any lids, caps, pumps or sprayers.

* See links on our Environmental Commission website for this list

Types of Plastics by the Numbers⁶:

 PETE	 HDPE	 PVC	 LDPE	 PP	 PS	 OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice container, cooking oil	high-density polyethylene milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	polyvinyl chloride trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	low-density polyethylene crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	polypropylene furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	polystyrene toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass

The Environmental Commission is committed to reducing the amount of plastic waste. We:

- Continue to monitor the proposed NJ plastic bag ban bill
- Support the use of reusable shopping bags and have a limited number of free reusable shopping bags available to residents. The bags are available for residents in the lobby of the Municipal Building (entrance by the Police Dept.), at Environmental Commission clean-up events (see dates on our website), and at Byram Fest (scheduled for 10/2 with a rain date of 10/3)
- Supported the Plastic Free July worldwide challenge and reduced our plastic use
- Will sponsor a soft plastic film collection event where residents may drop off their soft plastic film at a central collection point. Our goal is to collect 500 lbs. of materials in order to obtain a bench comprised of recycled plastic materials which will be placed at one of our trails for residents to enjoy. The details of this event will be announced in the Fall.

Please help us continue to keep Byram clean and green!

Reminder – please properly dispose of used face masks and gloves in your curbside trash container.



¹ https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2020/06/microscopic-plastics-adding-pollution-load-western-national-parks?utm_source=National+Parks+Traveler+Week+in+Review%2C+June+16%2C+2020&utm_campaign=National+Parks+Traveler+Weekly+Review&utm_medium=email

² <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/fact-sheets/microplastic-marine-debris-fact-sheet>

³ <https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/are-there-microplastics-in-your-drinking-water/>

⁴ <http://cmore.soest.hawaii.edu/cruises/super/biodegradation.htm>

⁵ <https://anjec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Stop-plastic-Pollution-in-NJ-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

⁶ <https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/plastics-by-the-numbers/>



Reuse Opportunities

It has often been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure. Instead of discarding unwanted items, try donating or selling them. Not only will you be reducing waste, you'll be helping others. Local churches, community centers, thrift stores, schools, nonprofit organizations and other organizations may accept a variety of donated items. Check out the reuse opportunities below and look for additional opportunities in your area.

Architectural Items – *Recycling the Past, Inc.* is an architectural salvage company that specializes in architectural salvage for the home and garden. This company might be interested in architectural items that you no longer want or need. www.recyclingthepast.com

Bicycles – *Pedals for Progress* accepts donations of used bicycles which are then shipped to developing countries where they are used for basic transportation, and as a resource for school and community programs. <http://www.p4p.org/>

Binders – Many schools will accept donations of used binders. Check with your local school district.

Books – Most libraries will accept donations of books. Many schools will also accept donations of books. Stores that sell used books might also be interested in the books that you no longer want or need.

Books – *New Legacy Books* is an organization that collects used books in New Jersey through a donation bin system. Books will be resold to individuals that can give the books a new home at the same time raising funds for organizations in the community. <http://www.newlegacybooks.com/index.html>

Boxes (Corrugated Cardboard) - In an effort to reduce waste, *U-Haul's Box Exchange* program helps customers sell, give away, or find used corrugated cardboard boxes. <https://www.uhaul.com/Exchange/>

Bras - The *Bra Recyclers*, based in Arizona, collect unwanted bras and donate them to women's shelters. The company receives 4,000 bras per month and supplies more than 40 shelters around the country. www.brarecycling.com

Bras – *I Support the Girls* is a nonprofit organization that accepts donations of new and gently used bras which are then distributed to girls and women experiencing homelessness. <https://isupportthegirls.org/>

Bricks – Old bricks that are still in good shape can be cleaned up and reused. Check with local recyclers of construction and demolition waste or architectural salvage companies to see if they would be interested in your old bricks for sale as reclaimed bricks. Companies that recycle various components of construction and demolition debris can be found on the NJDEP's database of Class B recycling centers at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/classb.htm>

Building Materials – *Habitat for Humanity's ReStores* are retail establishments that sell quality used and surplus building materials at reduced prices. Building materials sold at ReStores are donated by building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews and the general public.
<http://www.habitat.org/restores>

Clothes – *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.* and the *Salvation Army* both accept used clothing donations. <http://www.goodwill.org/donate-and-shop/> and <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Clothes – Consignment shops are stores that sell secondhand items (typically clothing and accessories) on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the selling price. Search online for consignment shops near you.

Compact Discs - Most libraries will accept donations of used CDs. Check with your local library.

DVDs - Most libraries will accept donations of used DVDs. Check with your local library.

Eyeglasses – *Lions Clubs International* accepts donations of used eyeglasses and distributes them to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact. Eyeglasses can be donated via Lions collection boxes or by mail.
<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/how-we-serve/health/sight/eyeglass-recycling.php>

Eyeglasses – *New Eyes* is a nonprofit organization that distributes used, donated eyeglasses to the disadvantaged in developing countries. <https://new-eyes.org/about-us>

Food (surplus) – There are numerous food banks/pantries in New Jersey that accept donations of surplus food. For a nearby food bank/pantry location, visit http://www.foodpantries.org/st/new_jersey

Food (surplus) - *Rock and Wrap It Up! (tm) Inc.* is a nonprofit organization that helps recover extra food from music and sporting events, among other places. The food is then donated to shelters. <http://www.rockandwrapitup.org/>

Glasses (see "Eyeglasses" above)

Household Items/Furnishings - *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.*, the *Salvation Army* and other charitable organizations accept used household items and furnishings for reuse.
<http://www.goodwill.org/donate-and-shop/> and <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Industrial Items – *repurposedMATERIALS, Inc.* accepts industrial byproducts and waste streams and “repurposes” these items, giving them a second life with a new use. Examples: retired street sweeping brushes are repurposed as backscratchers for horses or cattle; billboard vinyls are repurposed as tarps, covers and liners; and rubber conveyor belts are repurposed as fencing and industrial flooring. <http://www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com/index.php?p=home>

Kitchens (Luxury) – *Renovation Angel* is an organization that will help you donate your old luxury kitchen for reuse purposes as you undergo a renovation on your kitchen. <http://renovationangel.org/>

Medical Equipment – *Goodwill Home Medical Equipment* collects, sanitizes, refurbishes and sells gently-used, durable medical equipment and unopened medical supplies at affordable prices. <https://www.goodwillhomemedical.org/>

Miscellaneous Items – Charitable organizations may be interested in miscellaneous items that you no longer want or need (example, toys). Check with local charitable organizations before putting usable items in the trash.

Miscellaneous Items – *Anything But Costumes* is a full service prop rental house that makes available items needed for theatre, film, television, trade shows, events, displays, parties, and photography. This organization may be interested in some of the items that you no longer want or need (example, trophies, household items). <http://www.anythingbutcostumes.com/home/>

Miscellaneous Items – *Freecycle* is a grassroots and nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and neighborhoods via an online exchange. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers. Membership is free. <https://www.freecycle.org/>

Office Furniture – Office furniture (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, etc.) that is old and no longer wanted, but still usable, can be donated to and reused by other organizations in need of such items. Check with local nonprofit organizations to see if there is any interest in your old office furniture.

Paint – Leftover paint that is in good condition can be donated to: friends and relatives who admire the color schemes of your home; community groups, such as churches, schools and non-profit organizations that are involved with community housing projects; and artist groups that create murals or do painting projects. You can also sell or donate your leftover paint through a garage sale or on free online sites.

Pallets (Wood) – Wood pallets that are broken can be repaired and reused. Check with local pallet companies about reuse opportunities. Many wood pallet recycling companies also repair and reuse old pallets. Such companies can be found on the NJDEP's database of Class B recycling centers at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/classb.htm>.

Polystyrene Packing "Peanuts" – Consumers can drop off polystyrene plastic packing "peanuts" at over 500 collection sites in the US. <https://www.pakmail.com/recycling-packing-supplies>

Sewing Machines - *Pedals for Progress* accepts donations of used sewing machines which are then shipped to developing countries where they become productive assets for the poor. The sewing machines are provided to non-profit vocational education programs, small businesses, community service programs and individuals. <http://www.p4p.org/>

Shoes (Footwear) - *Soles4Souls* collects used shoes and distributes them to those in need free of charge. Over 10 million pairs of shoes have been reused and thus kept out of landfills. www.soles4souls.com

Sports Equipment – There are many organizations that are eagerly looking for donations of new or used sporting equipment. These non-profit organizations then distribute the donated sporting equipment to needy communities in the United States, as well as to developing countries in need of assistance.

Baseball/Softball Equipment Donations: <http://pifb.org/how-to-help/donate-equipment/>

Soccer Equipment Donations: <https://ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/passback>

Tennis Balls – *reBounces, LLC*, based in Harrison, Arkansas, is in the business of recharging "dead" tennis balls. The company uses a patented re-pressurization system that puts the bounce back into the tennis balls, thereby extending their lives as practice balls. reBounces sells the re-pressurized practice tennis balls at a reduced price to consumers. <https://rebounces.com/about-us/recycle-tennis-balls/>

Toner Cartridges – Toner cartridges can be refurbished and then reused. Contact local companies that sell toner cartridges about reuse opportunities.

Toys - The non-profit *Second Chance Toys* keeps rigid plastic toys out of landfills by promoting their collection and then arranging for the toys to be donated to local organizations serving disadvantaged children. <http://www.secondchancetoys.org/>

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Contact: Steven Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Sustainability, 609-633-0538, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov