The Township of Byram
10 Mansfield Drive
Stanhope, New Jersey 07874

973-347-2500

www.byramtwp.org

To all Byram residents and business owners: Fall 2026

Stormwater pollution is one of NJ's greatest threats to our clean and plentiful water. Every time it rains, snows, sleets 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 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 by 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 in keeping 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 drainpipes 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 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. Waterfowl feeding can pollute nearby waterways. Feeding human food to wildlife does not supply adequate nourishment and may cause the spread of disease to animals and humans. Wildlife feeding causes animals to lose their natural fear of humans and could potentially become a neighborhood nuisance.

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 EC@byramtwp.org.

Improper Disposal of Waste – Waste that is not properly disposed of is not only unattractive to see on our roadways and parks, but 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.

Private-Owned Salt Shed Storage – Salt and other solid de-icing materials must be in a container or covered and placed on an impervious surface to prevent stormwater from running through the material and into Township 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.

The Stormwater Letter will also be distributed via Nixle, Facebook and Township Webpage.



STORMWATER POLLUTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- You may think littering is no big deal (it is).
- You may think that whatever runs into the storm drains gets treated before it reaches local rivers and streams (it isn't).
- You may think motor oil and other hazardous materials doesn't harm the water very much (it does).

Pollution seeps into the ground and is carried by stormwater (rain and snow) directly to our drinking water, streams, lakes and oceans. Contaminated stormwater is the #1 cause of water pollution in New Jersey. Simple things, like proper clean-up after oneself and careful use of chemicals in the home, office and yard, are helpful ways for businesses and residents to protect the water.

Byram Township **has ordinances aimed at reducing pollution from litter, fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, animal waste, grass clippings and other debris. For details, see** www.byramtwp.org **. Thank you for keeping them in mind and doing your share.**

Clean Water NJ

Keep grass, leaves and trash out of storm drains



Don't feed wildlife



Clean up after your pet



Limit use of fertilizers & pesticides



Properly handle hazardous products



NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

www.nj.gov/dep/dwq

www.cleanwaternj.org