



# Stormwater Management Bulletin - Pathogens

*In response to Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, the Village of Scarsdale has implemented a Stormwater Management Program.*

*The goal is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drainage systems including, lakes, streams and the Long Island Sound. The Village encourages using BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP's) to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections*

*The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local lakes, streams and the Long Island Sound without any treatment.*

*The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the waste is treated.*

*Best Management Practices (BMP's) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.*

*Illicit Discharges or Illicit Connections Discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contributes to water pollution.*

## Pathogens

Stormwater runoff is a major contamination source of waterbodies such as the Bronx, Hutchinson and Sheldrake Rivers and Long Island Sound. Ultimately the source of pathogens in urban stormwater is animal waste. Identifying the specific source is more challenging and likely varies with location and land use. Typical sources include domestic pets and wildlife, particularly birds. Sources of bacteria to receiving waters include urban stormwater runoff, leaking sewer lines, sewer overflows and improperly maintained septic systems.

Residential pollution prevention practices are household and neighborhood activities that prevent or reduce the contamination of stormwater. Residential pollution prevention practices prevent or reduce stormwater contamination from sources such as yards, driveways, sidewalks, and household products. These practices are often simple, low cost behavioral changes that improve water quality by minimizing the introduction of pollutants including sediment, nutrients, metals, bacteria, trash, oil, and toxins. Residents and businesses can contribute to reducing pathogens in lakes, rivers, streams and Long Island Sound by controlling litter and animal waste in property, controlling yard waste so as not to enter streets and catch basins, properly maintaining septic systems, eliminating bare spots in lawns and keeping lawns healthy.

For businesses and other commercial entities, proper use and maintenance of dumpster and surrounding areas can have a positive impact on controlling pathogens in stormwater. Dumpster coverings for controlling stormwater from entering as well as occasional cleaning by a qualified service which contains all wash water for proper disposal is important and may be a local municipal requirement.

**For further information, or to assist the Village in its efforts, contact Stormwater Management Coordinator David Goessl, P.E. at 914-722-1102 or e-mail [dgoessl@scarsdale.gov](mailto:dgoessl@scarsdale.gov) or for more stormwater information:**

**[NPDES Stormwater Program | US EPA Stormwater - NYSDEC](#)  
<http://www.cwp.org>  
[Stormwater Management \(westchestergov.com\)](#)  
<https://scarsdale.gov/311/Stormwater-Management>**