SCARSDALE
1701
NEW YORK

Stormwater Management Bulletin - Phosphorus Pollution

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.

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 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

Phosphorus Pollution

Phosphorus is a necessary and natural element found in both rocks and soil. An essential nutrient for animals and plants, it is a common ingredient in fertilizers. Human waste water is a rich source of phosphorus.

Phosphorus gets into our lakes and streams when it is exported by way of rainstorms and snowmelt. Export can also occur when land is developed and paved. The natural filters and sponges of vegetated soil are reduced or eliminated, greatly increasing phosphorus movement into our streams and lakes. Paved surfaces also allow water from storms and other sources to move quickly and wash into streams and lakes along with other phosphorus containing pollutants such as motor oils and fuels. Phosphorus is an element essential to plant life and is present in most fertilizers. What makes your lawn and garden green can also make your streams and lakes green by promoting an overgrowth of algae and weeds. Each season, algae and weeds die, fall to a lake bottom and decay.The decay process deprives water of oxygen and causes fish and other aquatic life to die. Water becomes cloudy and gets an unpleasant odor and taste. Phosphorus, even in small amounts, reduces water quality. Sources of phosphorus can include eroded soil, leaves and grass clippings, paints, garbage, soaps and detergents, household chemicals, gasoline, oil and other lubricants, road dust, lawn fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste including pet droppings and improperly maintained septic systems.

You can help reduce the flow of phosphorus into our lakes and streams by minimizing paved surfaces, keeping soils covered with vegetation, eliminating use of pesticides and other yard and garden chemicals and fertilizing properly and in appropriate areas. Test lawns and gardens prior to fertilization so that you apply only what is needed for your soils.