

How Your Yard Can Impact the Environment

- ◆ When it rains, storm water runs through your yard, down the street and into the nearest storm drain, picking up pollutants along the way.
- ◆ These pollutants are carried to the nearest recharge basin or water body untreated through the storm sewer system.
- ◆ Improper use of lawn care chemicals can increase public and environmental health risks by contaminating waters with toxic levels of chemicals and excessive nutrients.
- ◆ Yard clippings can clog storm sewers and decompose in water bodies, taking oxygen away from fish and other wildlife.
- ◆ Sediments and soil washed from yards can also harm aquatic life by clogging fish gills, blocking light transmission, and inhibiting photosynthesis.

Anything that enters a storm sewer goes directly into a local water body or recharge basin!

What is the Village's Role in Storm Water?

In recognition of the importance that each of us has on the quality of local water bodies, the Village of Williston Park has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The Village's SWMP includes the following six program components:

- ◆ Public education and outreach
- ◆ Public participation and involvement
- ◆ Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- ◆ Construction site runoff control
- ◆ Post-construction storm water management
- ◆ Municipal pollution prevention and good housekeeping

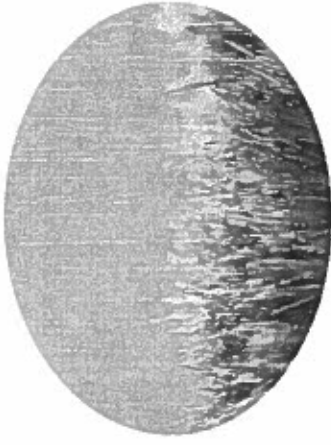
The goal of the Village's SWMP is to reduce impacts of storm water runoff thereby improving water quality.

For more information, please visit:
www.villageofwillistonpark.org/stormwater.htm

Village of Williston Park
Phase II Storm Water
Management Program

Water Quality Series:

Lawn and Garden Care



How your garden can help protect local waters!



What you can do to protect water quality

The Good News!

With these few simple steps, you can have a great yard and protect water quality!

Pesticides

- ◆ Inspect your lawn and garden often for pests. Catching a problem early reduces the amount of pesticide required.
- ◆ Use mechanical methods or nontoxic products first, such as pulling weeds, pruning, setting baits/traps, or other organic gardening methods.
- ◆ If pesticides must be used, spot treat only the affected areas instead of widespread application.
- ◆ Different pests require different controls. Identify the specific weeds, diseases, insects or other pests to choose which pesticide is most appropriate.
- ◆ Read labels and limit application to the rates and methods specified.

Fertilizers

- ◆ Leave grass clippings on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
- ◆ Test soils first to determine which nutrients are lacking so you can apply fertilizer more efficiently.
- ◆ Choose a fertilizer that has the proportions of nutrients your lawn needs based on the soil test.
- ◆ Slow-release formula fertilizers minimize chemical loss and promote plant uptake.
- ◆ Buy only the amount of chemical you will use and avoid “weed-and-feed” combination products.
- ◆ Fertilize in the fall to promote a deep, healthy root system and hardy lawn.

Lawn Maintenance

- ◆ Schedule yard work and chemical applications for dry weather.
- ◆ Store all chemicals in their original containers and under cover.
- ◆ Set the lawnmower blade setting to 2-½ to 3 inches to develop a deep root system resistant to drought and pests.
- ◆ Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems to prevent overwatering and runoff.
- ◆ Choose native grass and plants; they have lower nutrient and watering needs.
- ◆ Vegetate or mulch bare soil.
- ◆ Sweep all fertilizers, soil, and vegetation off paved surfaces. Do not blow, hose or sweep anything into the street or storm drains.



What is a Storm Drain?

- ◆ Storm drains are the metal grates and openings found along streets and curbs.
- ◆ Storm drains and pipes are designed to quickly convey storm water away from streets to prevent flooding.

What is Storm Water?

- ◆ Storm water is runoff from rainfall and snowmelt.

Why is it a Problem?

- ◆ During a storm, water runs through yards and down streets, picking up pollutants and contaminants along the way.
- ◆ These pollutants are quickly carried to the nearest water body or recharge basin through the storm sewer system.

Storm drains do not treat storm water or remove pollutants!

- ◆ Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated directly into the nearest water body or recharge basin.

What is the Village's Role in Storm Water?

In recognition of the importance that each of us has on the quality of local water bodies like the Long Island Sound, the Village of Williston Park has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The Village's SWMP includes the following six program components:

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- ◆ Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- ◆ Construction site runoff control
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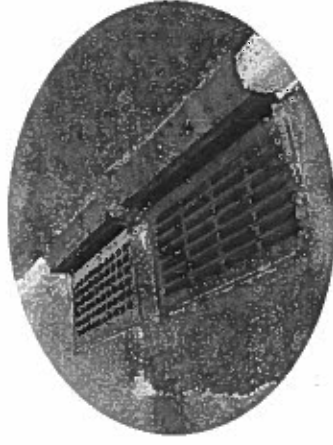
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Village of Williston Park
Phase II Storm Water
Management Program

Water Quality Series:

Storm Drains: What are they?



How you can prevent local water pollution!



What you can do to protect water quality

Did You Know?

Whether you are on the waterfront or further inland, your daily activities can pollute Long Island's waters.

Some common sources of pollutants found in storm water include:

- ◆ Fertilizers and pesticides
- ◆ Household chemicals
- ◆ Automotive fluids
- ◆ Car washing
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Detergents
- ◆ Pet waste
- ◆ Sanitary overflow
- ◆ Garbage and litter
- ◆ Sediments

Small amounts of pollution can add up to a big problem! Storm water pollution can have harmful effects on water quality, beach access, recreation, fish, wildlife, and your health.

The Good News!

With these few simple steps, you can reduce storm water pollution!

Lawn Care

- ◆ Do not overwater your lawn.
- ◆ Limit fertilizers and pesticides.
- ◆ Compost or mulch yard waste.
- ◆ Do not sweep or blow clippings into the street or storm drains.
- ◆ Choose native plant species.

Around the House

- ◆ Purchase only the chemicals and products in the amounts that you need.
- ◆ Read and follow directions for household chemical use, storage and disposal carefully.
- ◆ Keep storm drains and ditches clear of debris.

Auto Care

- ◆ Repair leaks and drips as soon as possible.
- ◆ Recycle motor oil, oil filters and other automotive fluids at vehicle service centers or parts stores.
- ◆ Take your car to a commercial car wash.

Dog Waste

- ◆ Bag it and put it in the trash.
- ◆ Flush it down the toilet
- ◆ Never throw dog waste or bags in storm drains.

But Most Importantly:

Never dump, sweep, blow or hose off anything that you would not want to swim in or drink onto the ground or down a storm drain.

