Working Together to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Many towns in Massachusetts are covered with acres of pavement and concrete.

When rain hits these hard surfaces, it washes pollutants like pet waste, bacteria, oil, litter, fertilizer, and grass clippings into storm drains, which then lead directly to local waterways.

Water that flows into storm drains is NOT treated—and pollutants on the street flow directly into streams and ponds, affecting the health of drinking water, wildlife and recreation.

Your town is working towards cleaner waterways by participating in the Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP), which offers resources to help eliminate water pollution that comes from paved surfaces. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently released new stricter water pollution regulations that we are committed to meeting.

Call the NSP Stormwater Hotline (781) 575-0354 x300 or the Westwood DPW (781) 326-8661 with stormwater questions, or to report dumping. For more info. on stormwater prevention, go to www.YourCleanWater.org.
Leaves and grass clippings that are dumped or stored near waterways or paved areas add to water pollution.

*Did you know that fallen leaves and grass clippings are loaded with phosphorus?*

When streams, rivers, and ponds receive too much phosphorus, harmful algae and cyanobacteria blooms can occur. These blooms are unsightly and can be toxic to people, pets, and wildlife.

**Keep your local waterways clean and healthy with a few simple steps.**

- Place raked leaves or lawn clippings in paper bags to be collected by the town.
- Consider composting yard waste.
- Keep paved areas and stormdrains clear of leaves.
- Keep bagged, piled and mulched leaves on natural soil, a few feet back from paved areas.
- Ensure that your lawn service is properly disposing of yard waste.
- Reduce excessive lawn chemical use and always follow manufacturer’s directions.

Learn more at www.YourCleanWater.org

The Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP) is a program managed by the Neponset River Watershed Association on behalf of ten member communities. NSP aims to increase the effectiveness of municipal stormwater management programs through regional cooperation and resource sharing.