

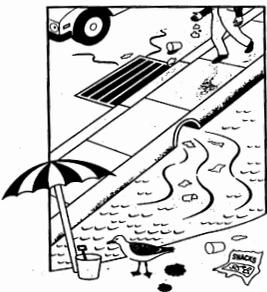


CLIFTON Clean Communities



Solutions to Stormwater Pollution Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

Clean Streets



Clean Beaches

Litter That Washes Down Storm Drains Can Pollute Our Waterways and Beaches

Drawing Provided By: **EPA**

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is

- predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that require little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.
- Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous

- products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.

Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and many other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets with messages reminding people that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies

- must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember to:
- Use newspaper bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up waste.
- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

Don't litter

- Place litter in trash



- receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Follow rules for yard waste collection.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Protecting Nature, Wildlife and Waterways!

“Clifton Declares Park Areas “Pesticide Free Zones”!”

Dear Clifton NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF) Members and Activists,

On July 7, 2006, Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi revealed Clifton parks as Pesticide Free Zones (PFZ)!

NJEF would like to thank our members who took the time to write letters and take action on this important environmental and public health issue. We couldn't have done this without you!

We would also like to acknowledge our community organizers who worked diligently on this campaign.

Clifton joins other communi-

ties which have designated Pesticide Free Zones in parks including Brick Township, Chatham, Irvington, Ocean City, Pine Beach and the County of Burlington.

“As a matter of policy and practice, we don't use pesticides in the maintenance of our city parks. We want to protect water quality and public health, especially the health of young children who are more vulnerable to the hazards of pesticides than adults,” said Mayor Anzaldi.

Fortunately, alternatives exist that are cost effective and friendly to the environment, simple things

like hand pulling weeds, mulching areas properly to prevent weeds, planting native plants that don't get insect problems, and reducing or eliminating lawns to cut down on the need for watering, fertilizing and mowing.

Residents can do their part in reducing pesticides in the environment and keeping air, water and land safe from toxic chemicals. Non toxic lawn care tips and “PFZ” ladybug logo yard signs are available from <http://cleanwateraction.org/njef/pesticides.htm> or www.pesticidefreelawns.org. For more information, contact



Members of the NJEF and city officials unite to keep parks pesticide free.

Jane Nogaki, 856-767-1110 or email janogaki@cleanwater.org. Natural methods of pest control

are also available from Master Gardeners of Passaic County at 973-305-5743.

Key Terms and websites

Stormwater: Water from rain and snow that flows off buildings, homes, parking lots and streets is known as stormwater. This water, also referred to as runoff, travels along gutters, into catch basins and through storm drain pipes and ditches. Most stormwater

eventually discharges into streams, rivers, and the ocean without being treated by water treatment plants.

Stormwater and Nonpoint Source Pollution, DEP www.stormwater.org

Clean and Plentiful Water – Stormwater, DEP www.nj.gov/dep/cleanwater/stormwater.html

Watershed: A watershed is the area of land that drains into a particular body of water such

as a river, lake, stream or bay. It is separated from other systems by high points in the area such as hills. It includes both the waterways itself and the entire land area whose streams and rainfall eventually drain into it.

Taken from the 2005 New Jersey Environmental Primer

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