

The rainfall or melted snow that washes over our region runs across streets, parking lots, yards, parks, sidewalks, and other surfaces. As it travels, stormwater carries whatever is on the land, including fertilizer, oil, trash, bacteria from pet waste, and many other pollutants. Polluted stormwater runoff can flow to waterways and nearby storm drains, releasing the runoff to rivers, lakes, and stormwater pipes, eventually reaching Long Island Sound. Stormwater can't soak into the soil in developed areas, where the ground is covered by pavement and buildings. This can increase the risk of flooding as heavy rainfall, which has become more frequent and extreme in recent years, may overwhelm storm drains and waterways.

## Turn Ideas into Action

Scan the QR code to learn more about polluted runoff and how to put the Sound Ideas in this brochure into practice.



## Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media to learn and keep up with the Long Island Sound Partnership.

 @LISPartnership Visit: [lispartnership.org](http://lispartnership.org)  
 @lispartnership

Cover photo by Tvero eos et accusamus et iusto odio dignissimos ducimus qui blanditiis praesentium voluptatum deleniti atque corrupti quos dolores et quas molestias



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement LI-00A01059 to NEIWPC. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.



# Clean Water and a Healthy Sound Start at Home and in your Community

Check Out Our Sound Ideas for Clean Water!

## What is Stormwater Runoff and Why Does it Matter?

Polluted runoff is harmful to humans and animals. Adopting one small "Sound Idea" into your everyday life can improve the Sound's health and help everyone enjoy cleaner waters.

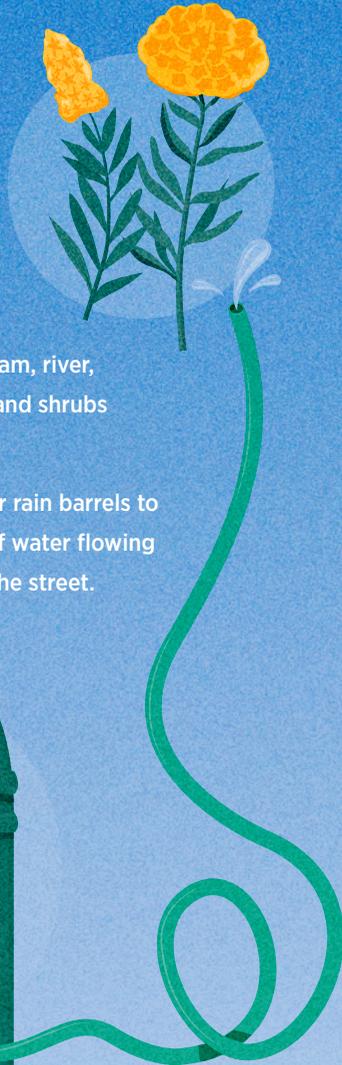


# How To Curb Stormwater Runoff...

## In Your Garden

You can reduce the amount of stormwater flowing into storm drains and prevent pesticides and fertilizer from reaching the Sound. Try one of these Sound Ideas in your garden.

- ✓ Use native plants, which require little to no chemical fertilizer and have long root systems that store and filter water.
- ✓ If you live near a stream, river, or pond, plant trees and shrubs next to waterways.
- ✓ Install rain gardens or rain barrels to reduce the amount of water flowing from your yard into the street.



## Where You Park

When washing your car at home or on the sidewalk, grit, dirt, soap, and grease pollute the wash water. The polluted water that comes off your car travels from the pavement onto the street and down the storm drain, which flows into rivers, bays, and the Sound.

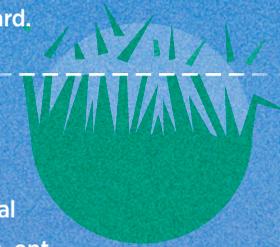
- ✓ Bring your car to a car wash that uses environmentally sound practices.
- ✓ If you wash your car at home, use biodegradable soap and do it in a grassy area, if possible.
- ✓ If you are hosting a car wash fundraiser, move it to a grassy field instead of playgrounds and parking lots.
- ✓ When you're finished look for oily spots under the car that hint it might be leaking.



## On Your Lawn

Water is great for a green lawn, but too much of it can run across your grass, carrying with it fertilizer and pesticides that pollute waterways. Overwatering your lawn can also contribute to this problem.

- ✓ Point your downspout to redirect runoff to your yard.
- ✓ Mow at three inches or higher to reduce the need for extra watering.
- ✓ Limit your use of chemical fertilizer! If you use them, opt for organic, slow-release options.
- ✓ Apply fertilizer only around Memorial and/or Labor Day. Grass can't absorb fertilizer if it is too hot or too cold.
- ✓ Turn lawn sprinklers off when it rains and water early in the morning.
- ✓ Leave behind lawn clippings to act as a free and natural fertilizer.



## In the Street & On the Sidewalk

Sidewalks and streets create a path for rainfall to flow to storm drains and waterways. Maintaining sidewalks and drains is important for protecting water quality and reducing flood risks.

- ✓ Remove brush and trash that might be blocking your neighborhood's storm drains.
- ✓ Avoid oversalting your sidewalks and walkways - using more salt than you need is harmful to the environment. Never use fertilizer as a deicer!
- ✓ Pick up your pet's waste and put it in the trash can.
- ✓ Put trash in the appropriate bins and do not leave trash next to or on top of an overflowing bin.

