

Ways You Can Help Reduce Stormwater Pollution

- Be aware of signs of illicit discharges to the stormwater system, such as an oily sheen on surface water, staining at storm drains, and collection of silt and sediment in local waters and wetlands. Report any suspected illicit discharge activity to Village or County authorities.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and do not apply when storm events are forecast to occur.
- Use natural and less toxic household hazardous products (cleaners, paint thinners, etc.) whenever possible and dispose of these products at the Town's household hazardous waste collection center (S.T.O.P. program).
- Sweep driveway and sidewalks instead of hosing dirt and debris into the street where pollutants would wash into storm drains.
- Dispose of litter properly. Never throw litter in streets or down storm drains. Recycle waste as much as possible.
- Always clean up after pets and dispose of pet waste in the toilet or garbage.
- Check cars for leaks and recycle motor oil and antifreeze. Never dump used automotive waste down storm drains or on the ground.
- Patronize car wash facilities that do not generate runoff, or if possible wash cars on a porous surface to minimize runoff of detergents, oil and grease.



Want To Learn More About How You Can Help?

To report someone dumping into storm sewers or having an illegal storm sewer connection, contact:

**Nassau County Illicit Discharge Hotline
(516) 571-6863
or
Incorporated Village of Island Park
(516) 431-0600**

All calls will remain confidential.

Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) Program:
Contact the Town of Hempstead Sanitation Department
(516) 378-2220 or <http://www.townofhempstead.org>
go to "Citizen Services" and click on the link for the
Town's S.T.O.P. Program

Other Sources of Stormwater Information:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8468.html)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov or http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov)
- New York Sea Grant Extension (www.nysgextension.org and www.nyseagrant.org)
- Stormwater Managers' Resource Center (www.stormwatercenter.net)



Stormwater Management Awareness in the Village of Island Park



Incorporated Village of Island Park
James Ruzicka, Mayor



Produced by the Village of Island Park with
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What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. The stormwater flows from rooftops, over paved driveways and sidewalks and through sloped or saturated lawns into storm drains in the street or directly into the surface waters and wetlands areas surrounding the Village of Island Park, specifically Reynolds Channel, Hog Island Channel, Wreck Lead Channel, Barnum Island Channel, and Shell Creek. There are 318 stormwater catch basins throughout the Village which are connected to the municipal storm sewer system and discharge to surface water via 19 outfalls. The Village works to maintain the stormwater drainage system in good condition in order to minimize flooding.



How Stormwater Affects the Environment and Our Quality of Life

The Village of Island Park is virtually surrounded by surface water, beaches and wetlands. All of the municipal storm sewers discharge untreated stormwater directly to surface water, therefore any pollutants picked up in the runoff may impact these resources. Illicit discharges enter the stormwater system through illegal connections to storm sewers or people dumping waste oil, chemicals, etc. directly into storm drains or surface waters. It is in the best interest of our citizens and the environment to take all reasonable steps to reduce the stormwater pollutant load.

Eliminate This



to Help Maintain This



Why is Stormwater a Problem?

As stormwater flows over ground, it picks up soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and grease, debris and any other potential pollutants in its path. These pollutants pose a threat to the surface waters and wetlands areas since stormwater in the Village discharges directly to these sensitive environmental areas without treatment.



Stormwater pollution can harm aquatic systems, pose risks to human health and wildlife, and impact recreational uses of surface water bodies.

Wetlands provide natural flood protection by absorbing excess water and releasing it during dry periods. Therefore, it is important to eliminate stormwater pollution to wetlands to maximize this natural flood protection



Loose dirt from construction sites can wash off into storm drains and surface waters with stormwater, creating muddy waters that can destroy aquatic habitats.

As debris (from littering and materials carried by runoff) and sediment build up in storm drains, the potential for street flooding increases.

Excess nutrients from lawn fertilizers, pet waste and decaying plant material are transported by stormwater runoff into surface waters and can cause excessive algae growth and reduced oxygen levels in the water leading to significant impacts on aquatic life.

Toxic substances such as pesticides and oil and grease picked up by stormwater can result in fish kills and interruptions in recreational uses of water bodies.

Bacteria and viruses in stormwater from pet waste and other sources can result in beach closures, fish kills and human health problems.

It is important to eliminate illicit stormwater discharges and runoff from development and construction sites in order to protect the natural resources around the Village. Government alone cannot eliminate these effects, therefore a community effort is needed to effectively eliminate prohibited discharges and maintain the desired quality of surface waters and wetlands.

What the Village of Island Park is Doing to Address Stormwater Pollution

- The Village recently adopted Local Law 7 of 2007, Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control, to address controlling stormwater runoff from land development and construction activities to minimize erosion and resultant impacts on surface waters and wetlands.
- The Village has implemented a stormwater training program for employees responsible for maintaining the stormwater discharge system and overseeing land development and construction projects.
- The Village has implemented a public awareness campaign to increase public knowledge of stormwater issues, stress the importance of preventing illicit discharges to protect local waters and wetlands, and provide information on ways to reduce stormwater pollution.
- With assistance from a grant provided under the 2006 Nassau County Environmental Program Bond Act, the Village is purchasing a catch basin cleaner and installing a number of catch basin inserts and swirl separators throughout the Village which are designed to trap debris and reduce the amount of pollutants that discharge to surface water surrounding the Village. The Village will use the new vacuum unit to clean out catch basins. These measures, in conjunction with increased public awareness will keep the stormwater drainage system in optimum condition to effectively reduce stormwater pollution.
- The Village will adhere medallions provided by Nassau County to the storm drains in the Village



as an added warning against dumping anything down storm drains due to the potential impacts on environmental receptors.