

# PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLLUTANTS OF CONCERN FACT SHEET #1

## THE POLLUTANTS OF CONCERN

The Putnam Valley High School and Middle schools are located in the Town of Putnam Valley within the Peekskill Hollow Brook Watershed. Flowing from Putnam Valley south into Westchester County, the Brook empties into Annsville Creek and the Hudson River. The pollutants of concern in the Hudson River Basin are:

- Nutrients
- Silt and Sediment
- Pathogens
- Oils and Grease
- Metals
- Debris and Litter

Of particular concern are pathogens, phosphorus, silt and sediment. The new regulations require an ongoing public education and outreach program designed to reduce the impacts of the above Pollutants of Concern (POCs) from stormwater and non-stormwater discharges to the Hudson River Watershed to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

## SOURCES OF POLLUTANTS

Potential pollution sources at the District are:

- **Recreational and Athletic Fields** – nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are derived from plants and animal material, fertilizers, as well as geese droppings and pet waste
- **Silt and Sediments** – from construction activity and from sand left over from de-icing winter operations
- **Pathogens** - derived from overflowing septic systems, geese and pet waste

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**For more information, contact your SWMP Coordinator,  
Nick Bellantoni at 845-526-7854  
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- **Oils and grease** - derived from parking lots from automobile oil/grease leaks
- **Trash Containment Areas** – debris and litter from uncovered trash containers
- **Debris and litter** – are derived from debris may be found in school yards

## **IMPACTS ON NEARBY WATERS**

Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen cause an excessive growth of algae, especially during the summer months. Excessive algal blooms cause a depletion of sunlight, decreased water clarity, large swings in dissolved oxygen, disagreeable odors, aquatic habitat loss and fish kills.

Large amounts of silt and sediments can disrupt ecosystems by blocking sunlight, stifle benthic organisms, reduce stream capacity, and can carry significant amounts of petrochemicals, fertilizers and pesticides.

Pathogens, which cause drinking water to be unfit for human consumption, are the leading causes of cholera and other water borne diseases, and may also lead to frequent beach closings due to high bacterial counts.

Floatables such as tires, plastics and metal containers contribute to storm drainage flow interruption, piping blockages and flooding and overflowing waterways. In recent studies, it has been reported that ingested plastics and other debris are becoming a serious threat to the well being, and in many cases, the cause of death to birds, marine mammals and fish.

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