
PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introductory Newsletter

Storm Water Management Program

STORMWATER CLEANUP CAMPAIGN

In January 2008, the Putnam Valley Central School District (PVCSD) filed a Notice of Intent with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to comply with new regulations to control pollutants from storm water runoff. Under the State mandated program, PVCSD will initiate and implement a storm water management program by educating the school community about the storm water program and soliciting their participation in the control of pollution from storm water runoff. The Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), endorsed by the PVCSD, will prioritize public education and public participation and will focus on what constitutes stormwater pollution and how these pollutants directly impact each one of us, in all aspects of our daily life. The permit issued by NYSDEC to PVCSD extends from January 9, 2008 to January 8, 2011.

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground, but runs off the impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways and parking lots and other impervious surfaces into nearby drainage ditches and/or catch basins that transport the runoff into nearby lakes, streams, reservoirs and other drinking water supply sources.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF STORMWATER RUNOFF?

The polluted runoff, containing oils and greases from leaking automobiles, road salt from winter operations, sediment from construction sites, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides from our lawns and gardens all affect habitats of fish and plant life. Nutrients from fertilizers, containing large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen, promote the overgrowth of algae, and deplete oxygen in our waterways. Bacteria from animal wastes and failing septic systems make our lakes and beaches unsafe for swimming and public water supplies unfit to drink. Contaminated runoff containing pathogens also adversely affects the propagation and consumption of edible shellfish. Finally, excessive runoff also promotes flooding and the destruction of property.

ONGOING STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The ongoing stormwater program, endorsed by your district will include:

- A stormwater website, which will list contact persons, fact sheets and newsletters related to stormwater management
- PVCSD will explore how students and staff can participate in the cleanup of the streams and waterbodies that run nearby or through the campus
- PVCSD will explore how students and staff can participate in the stenciling of storm drains that run through the campus
- A Pollution Prevention Training will be provided to Operations and Maintenance Staff
- A Public Information Meeting will be held in December 2008 to notify the school community on the ongoing SWMP
- A SWMP Annual Report will be submitted to NYSDEC in December 2008, on ongoing and future implementation goals

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

While the administrative portion of the program has been initiated, school participation is vital to the success of this of this program. You can help by:

- Visiting your Storm Water Website to review Newsletters and Fact Sheets on your storm water program
- Becoming involved in the school community environmental and conservation projects
- Having an open dialogue on how storm water pollution affects your environment
- Establishing volunteer student groups to actively engage in the District's stormwater program
- Encouraging your peers (administrators, staff and students) in identifying existing local stormwater programs that contribute to and are supported by the towns and villages in which you reside