

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
PUTNAM VALEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MAY 14, 2013**

I - STORMWATER RUNOFF PERMIT

- In **March 2003**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued **Phase II Stormwater Regulations** to control pollutants from stormwater runoff
- Under these regulations, the District applied for a permit, requiring the MUFSD to **initiate and implement a storm water management program which would reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff**

II - STORMWATER RUNOFF: THE PEOPLE POLLUTION

- 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
- As stormwater runs off your driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up pollutants and flushes these pollutants via a **storm drain system and/or a nearby drainage ditch** into nearby lakes, streams, reservoirs and other drinking water supply sources
- Pollutants commonly include; **sediment, trash and debris, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, automotive fluids, salt and other chemicals, pet waste and septic system wastes**

III - THE IMPACTS OF STORMWATER POLLUTANTS

- **Sediments**, in addition to blocking storm drain flows and causing backups and flooding, can also have **harmful effects on the fish and plant life habitats**
- **Nutrients** from fertilizers, containing large amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen, **promote the overgrowth of algae**
- An **algal bloom** cuts off sunlight and **depletes oxygen in the water**, harming fish and plant life ecosystems
- **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**

IV - ACCESS TO DISTRICT STORMWATER INFORMATION

- In 2008, the District established a **Stormwater Website**, which is accessible to all staff and students in the District
- This website is used for **posting newsletters and fact sheets** and for publication of other stormwater related events
- In 2008, the District appointed the Director of School Facilities, as the District's **Stormwater Coordinator**.
- The Stormwater Coordinator is responsible for **acting as liaison** between the District, the Public and NYSDEC
- The Stormwater Coordinator is also responsible for **coordinating all stormwater public education and outreach programs** in the District
- For **more information** on the current and the ongoing stormwater program, you may contact your **Stormwater Coordinator, Douglas Judson** at 845-526-7854 or at djudson@pvcasd.org

V - AT HOME: LAWN AND GARDEN CARE

- Use **pesticides and fertilizers sparingly**
- When necessary, use these chemicals in the **recommended amounts**
- **Avoid application if the weather forecast calls for rain;** otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream
- **Don't overwater your lawn.** Water in the mornings and during cool times of the day and don't let the water run off into the storm drain
- **Think green; compost your yard leaves and grasses** and use the compost in your garden
- **Increase the amount of vegetated areas and reduce impervious or paved areas**
- **Select native plants** and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants **require less water, fertilizer and pesticides**
- **Direct downspouts away from paved areas**
- **Incorporate rain gardens** and re-use rain water in your gardens

VI - AT HOME: REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Before beginning an **outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain or drainage ditch** and protect them from debris and other construction materials
- Sweep up and properly dispose off **construction debris** such as concrete and mortar
- Use **hazardous substances** like paint and thinners, solvents and cleaners in the **smallest amounts possible**, and follow directions on the label

- **Clean up spills immediately** and dispose of them at an **approved town or village facility**

VII - AT HOME: SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND MAINTENANCE

- Have your **septic system inspected** by a professional at least every **three (3) years**, and have your tank pumped at that time
- Care for the septic tile fields by **not driving or parking vehicles** on it
- **Plant only grass** over and near the septic drain field to avoid damage from roots
- **Flush responsibly**; flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment system
- Items such as **diapers, paper towels and cat litter**, can clog the septic system and potentially **damage components of the system**

VIII - AT HOME: PET CARE

- When walking your pet, remember to **pick up** the waste and dispose it properly
- **Flushing pet waste** is the best **disposal method**
- **Leaving pet waste** on the ground **increases public health risks** allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies

IX - AT HOME: SWIMMING POOL AND SPA

- **Drain** your swimming pool or spa, only after you have tested the water to be **free of chlorine**
- Whenever possible drain your swimming pool or spa, into a **sanitary sewer system**

- **Properly store** pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater

X - GETTING THE WORD OUT

- Remember all **watersheds are interconnected** and sooner or later pollutants discharged from your school yard could eventually **affect the water you drink at home or at other locations**
- While the administrative portion of the program has been initiated by your District, your home participation in stormwater pollution control is also vital to the success of this of this program.
- **You can help by:**
 1. **Visiting your Storm Water Website** to review Newsletters and Fact Sheets on your storm water program
 2. **Becoming involved** in the school community environmental and conservation projects
 3. Having an **open dialogue** on how storm water pollution affects your environment
 4. Establishing **volunteer student groups** to actively engage in promoting student outreach and education on storm water activities
 5. Encouraging your peers (administrators, staff and students) to **engage in an aggressive outreach and education program** on storm water pollution control