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# **PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Fact Sheet #1**

### **Sensitive Waterbodies in Your Area**

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#### **STORM WATER RUNOFF: THE SILENT THREAT**

Storm water runoff is generally classified as excess rainwater or snowmelt that is transported to surface waters by overland flow. Surface waters include any open waterbodies, such as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands or impoundments. When it rains, pollutants from overland areas and impervious surfaces such as city streets, driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks are transported directly into nearby surface waters and the sensitive waterbodies in your area.

Pollutants transported from overland flow may include oils and greases (from improperly maintained automobiles), sewage overflows (from improperly maintained septic systems), litter and debris and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (from roofs and parking lots) fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides (from lawns and gardens) and other dissolved solids such as salts and chlorides (from de-icing agents).

#### **DECLINING WATER QUALITY**

Oils and greases and other chemicals are toxic to fish, marine life and other aquatic organisms. Sewage overflows affect the water quality of our drinking water supplies and the recreational uses of our water resources. Excessive concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen promote algal growth that block sunlight from reaching underwater plants and reduce oxygen in bottom waters. Excess sediments in runoff deplete in-stream habitats for fish and other aquatic organisms and blind our water filtration plant intakes.

#### **SENSITIVE WATERBODIES IN YOUR WATERSHED**

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. In addition to its value for habitat, recreation, and open space, the watershed provides the primary drinking water supply for thousands of residents in Cortlandt and Peekskill and is the backup supply for Buchanan.

#### **PVCSD Year 1 SWMP – Fact Sheet #1**

**For further information, contact your SWMP Coordinator,  
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