

What is stormwater?

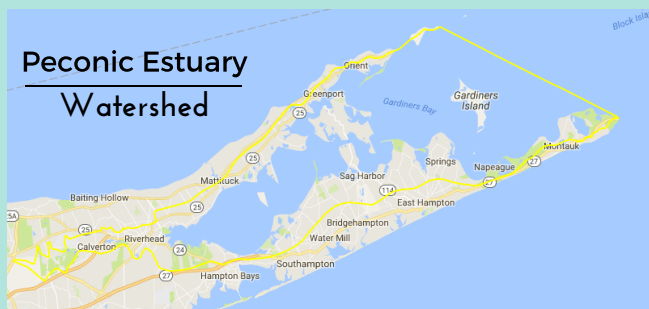
Stormwater is rain or melting snow that flows over roads, parking lots, driveways and lawns entering a storm drain system or discharged directly into nearby waterbodies.

Why does it matter?

Stormwater carries pollutants like motor oil, sediment, pet waste, garbage, fertilizers and pesticides that can be harmful to aquatic life and create human health risks.

What is a watershed?

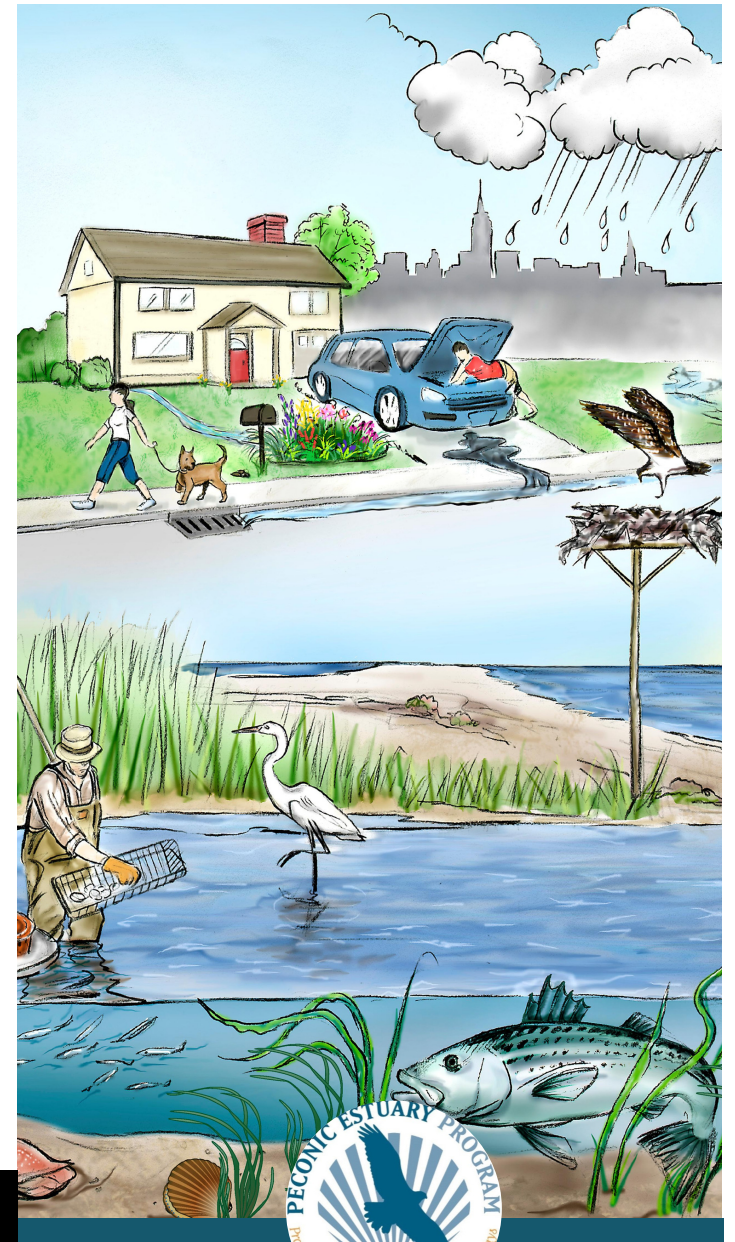
A watershed is an area of land that separates water flowing to different water basins. This means everyone living in the watershed impacts water quality, not just waterfront properties.



CONTACT DETAILS

peconicestuary.org
peptalk@peconicestuary.org

SCDHS - Office of Ecology
360 Yaphank Avenue Suite 2B
Yaphank, NY 11980
(631) 852-5750



All About Stormwater

Ways You Can Help

- Buy time release fertilizers, and never apply before a storm.
- Refrain from applying fertilizers Nov. 1 - April 1, when grass does not grow and nutrients are not absorbed.
- Plant native plants, which do not need fertilizers and require less watering and maintenance.
- Install a rain barrel or direct gutters towards the lawn, rather than pavement.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in a trash or toilet.
- Replace your outdated or leaking septic system.
- Wash your car over a patch of grass or bring it to a carwash.
- Don't dump anything down stormwater drains.
- Never flush medications, instead return them along with household products at a S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) collection site near you.
- Dispose of driveway debris in the trash. Sediment can cloud water and stress aquatic plants.



Raingardens Reduce Runoff

Diverting rain water to your native garden or rain barrel can reduce pollution entering our local waterways.

More Information...

Stormwater pollution is considered a non-point source (NPS). NPS is defined as pollution that comes from many areas like, roads or pipes, instead of a single source. This makes solutions more difficult. Additionally, over 90% of stormwater drains on the east end of Long Island discharge directly into the local bays without being treated. What we do on land directly impacts water quality and the overall healthy of our estuary. We need everyone to do their part to keep our bays healthy.