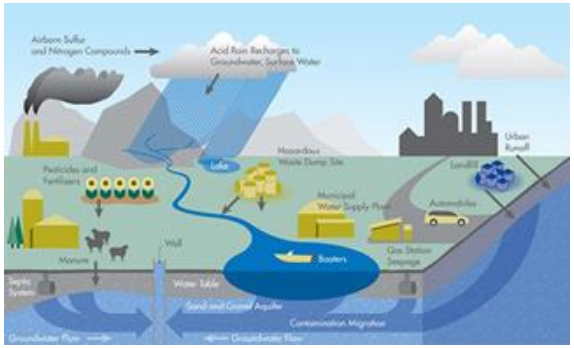
Compliments of the

Wall Township

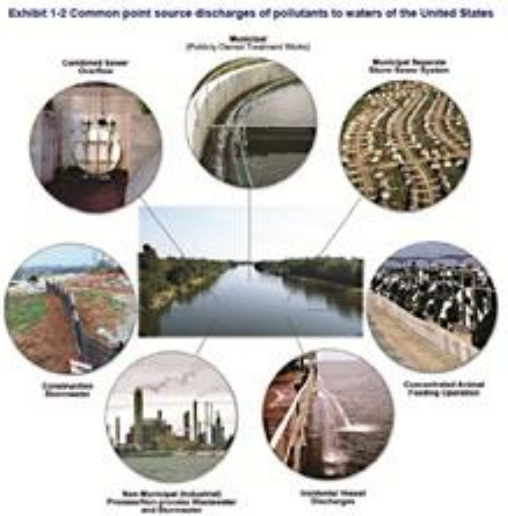
Environmental Advisory Committee

Township of Wall
2700 Allaire Road
P.O. Box 1168
Wall, NJ 07719-1168

Non-Point Source Pollution



Wilma Morrissey, Chair



Polluted Discharge into Water

WTEAC
Box 1168
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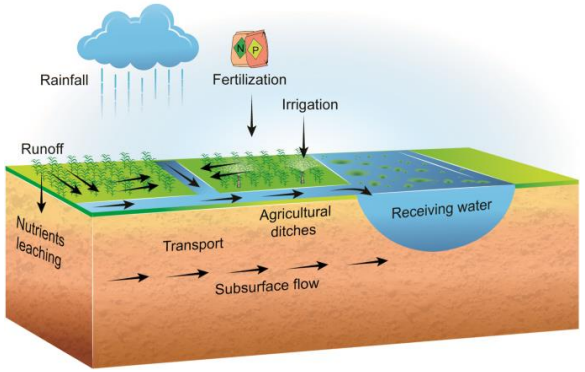
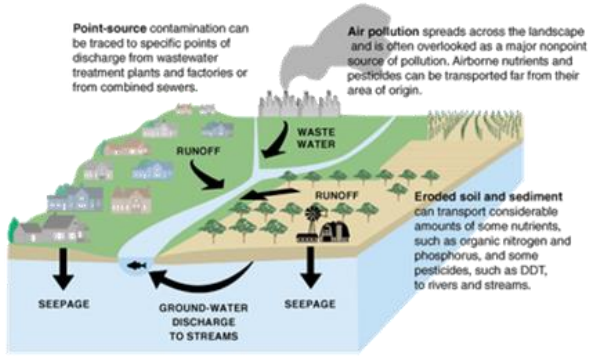
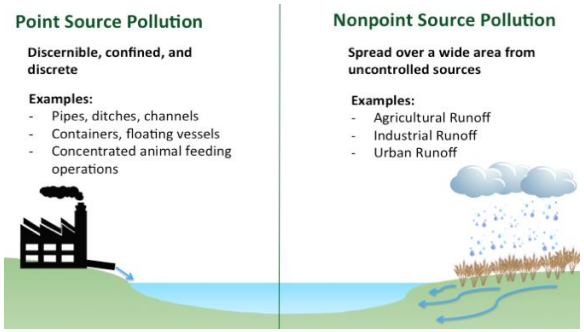




Visit: wallnj.com/323/Environmental-Advisory Committee

***Environmental Education at its best*!**

Non-Point and Non-Point Pollution?



A very simplistic way to define nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is that nonpoint pollution stems from many scattered and diversified sources whereas point source pollution generally results from a single source of polluted runoff. Nonpoint source pollution is one of the leading causes of water pollution in New Jersey today; therefore, we will focus on NPS pollution as opposed to point pollution because this is where residents can make the greater gain and difference Pollutants are harmful to our health, marine life, drinking water, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt that carries land runoff pollutants in and off the ground which then causes these natural and human-made pollutants to enter into our lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters endangering our water quality.

One leading cause is applying excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides on our lawns and gardens as well as on agricultural lands. Use these fertilizers and pesticides minimally and sparingly, read the label directions carefully, reduce the use, and apply the product less often and only as needed. It is better to buy organic products with slow-release nitrogen. Perhaps mixing your soil with compost may help in not overusing fertilizers. You can also plant a groundcover with grass, shrubs, or other vegetation in bare spots to protect the soil from eroding. Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides to your lawn or garden before or during rain as it can wash into the street. This will find its way to a water body. In addition, you may want to establish a native or rain garden on your property that prevents soil erosion. The native plants use less water and have less pesticide and fertilizer requirements

Another leading cause is pet waste. According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), pet waste carries bacteria, parasites, and other disease that can be transmitted to humans. If you leave the pet waste on the ground, it eventually breaks down and enters our waterway. Bear in mind that animal waste contains two main types of pollutants that are harmful to our water bodies; namely, nutrients and pathogens. Once this waste decomposes from these nutrients and reaches our water bodies, we are left with an excessive growth of algae and weeds that is harmful to our environment.

Do not blow your leaves into the street or else they will find their way into the storm drains which could then clog and pollute the stormwater. Your leaves and grass clippings on your lawn can be used as a natural fertilizer. Otherwise, place leaves at curbside in a neat and orderly fashion starting the week prior to your scheduled collection week. Do not mix leaves with brush or place leaves in plastic or paper bags, as they will not be picked up. Composting yard waste and kitchen waste is another option.

To avoid nonpoint source pollution, dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, brake fluids, antifreeze, automotive products and other household chemicals properly. Otherwise, these chemicals could drain directly into our local streams, rivers, and lakes and again impact our quality of water. In addition, purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients that can be harmful.

If you have a septic system, have it inspected and pumped at a minimum of every three to five years in for proper operation.in order to avoid expensive repairs and pollution of ground and surface water. Purchase products that are only "septic safe." Consider buying biodegradable recyclable products.

Residents can also redirect their gutter downspouts so that the rain percolates through their soil into their lawn or garden rather than carrying nutrients running down the driveway during rainstorms. This would reduce nonpoint source pollution.

We, as residents, can also wash our car on a pervious cover like grass rather than washing our car on the driveway since the soap and dirt will wash into the nearest storm drain. In washing our car, we should use a nontoxic and phosphate-free soap. A pail of water is better than using a hose in self-washing a car. Avoid excessive use of water because it adds to the runoff of water off the land. In the interim of car washing, you may want to let nature clean your car by utilizing a heavy rain. You can also take the car to a commercial car wash because they are required to properly dispose of wastewater.

These are a couple of other examples in avoiding non-point source pollution. We can purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous in order to reduce the amount of nutrients that seem to find its way into our waterways.

In addition, we can drive less because burning fossil fuels, which include the gas in our cars, releases nitrogen-containing compounds as well as carbon dioxide. This creates air pollution that result in ground rainwater that pollutes and affect our waterways. We can plan and combine car trips or we can carpool to help reduce air and water pollution. The exhaust fumes from cars are another pollutant. We also need to inspect our cars for leaks.

Wall Township has an excellent Stormwater Management ordinance. Please goggle your Internet for additional examples on NPS pollution.

As a public outreach activity, our Committee uses the EnviroScape 3-D interactive, hands-on educational model that educates the public on nonpoint source pollution activities which have an adverse effect on the environment.