


Stormwater doesn't go "away".

Ever think about your local storm drain or catch basin? No? Most people don't. It connects to what's called a "storm sewer" and is designed to "catch" rainwater, let road sand settle out to be pumped out later, and then get the water to the watercourse nearest you.

Because of that word storm "sewer", unfortunately, many people think that the water that goes down a storm drain, like the water that goes down the toilet, goes to a sanitary sewer and to the sewage treatment plant. **It doesn't.** It goes directly to Lake



Saltonstall, the Branford River, the Farm River, Queach Brook, Mill Creek, Sybil Creek, Pisgah Brook, Ward's Mill Pond, the Supply Ponds, Pine Gutter Brook, Sheldon Creek, Long Marsh Creek, Pine Creek, Squaw Brook, Jarvis Creek/Stony Creek, Hoadley Creek, Lidyhites Pond, Lindsley Pond, all the swamps, marshes and salt marshes, and, of course, Long Island Sound.

And when it goes into that creek around the corner, it takes with it all the things the rain water has picked up on its travels: fertilizer, grass clippings, leaves, litter,  oil that dripped from your car, pet waste, soap suds from washing your car...you get the idea.



So what can you do?

- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the street;
- "Adopt" your local storm drain – clean leaves and litter off the top;
- Clean up after your dog – flush, put in the garbage, or bury in the yard;
- Sweep fertilizer off the driveway, sidewalk & street & put it back on the lawn;
- Fix any car oil leaks promptly; clean up fluid spills;
- Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash – "biodegradable" soap doesn't mean "non-toxic";
- Never put anything down a storm drain – even "natural" things like sand or leaves clog it. Clogged drains can't trap sediment, may cause flooding, and encourage mosquito breeding;
- Educate your neighbors; join a program to label storm drains; volunteer to test water quality; talk to **Branford River Project** at **481-5765** or **Friends of Farm River Estuary** at **481-4506**.