

Contacts for Additional Information

www.lewisborogov.com

www.lewisborogov.com/committees/stormwater.html

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC]:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>

CT Dept. of Environmental Protection [CTDEP]

<http://dep.state.ct.us>

EPA Office of L.I. Sound Study:

www.longislandsoundstudy.net

Westchester County: www.westchestergov.com/health/

<http://www.westchestergov.com/environment.htm>

www.westchestergov.com/planning/

Norwalk River Watershed Association [NRWA]

www.norwalkriver.org

Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition:

www.newyorkwater.org/

Riverkeeper: <http://www.riverkeeper.org/>

Westchester Land Trust:

<http://www.westchesterlandtrust.org/>

Lewisboro Land Trust:

<http://www.westchesterlandtrust.org/chapters/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Westchester County:

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/westchester/>

Native Plans for NY Streambanks:

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga/watersheds/PDF>

[Files/streamside_plants.pdf](#)

Native Plant Center: www.nativeplantcenter.org/

Rain gardens:

<http://www.westchestergov.com/planning/environmental/>

[SoilWaterReports/altpractices.pdf](#)

Bedford Audubon Society: www.bedfordaudubon.org/

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County:

<http://www.fcwc.org/>

The Silvermine River, whose headwaters start in Lewisboro, NY, and Ridgefield, CT, is a tributary to the Norwalk River, which empties into Long Island Sound. The facts and principles in this pamphlet, however, apply to all rivers and watersheds which drain to the Sound and the Hudson River.

Norwalk River Watershed Association [NRWA]
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877-Norwalk INFO (877-679-2463 toll free)
www.norwalkriver.org

HOW TO MANAGE AND LANDSCAPE YOUR PROPERTY

A good supply of **clean drinking water** is essential for your family's health, a thriving community, and high property values. Whether you own or rent a home or business, basic management activities and techniques can protect and improve the quality of your water and quality of life in the watershed where you live and work (plus help you save on costly repairs). Knowing how to responsibly manage your home and land helps you protect your assets and makes you an asset to your neighbors and community because each property affects the next.

This guide pinpoints important areas that need attention and websites that can give more information. The Action Checklist will help you rate your property and how you care for it, so you can improve your property and its impact on your watershed, reservoirs, the Hudson River, and Long Island Sound.



Numbers on the diagram refer to Areas for Attention discussed in more detail on the reverse side of this brochure and to recommendations for improvement listed both there and on the Action Checklist.

ACTION CHECKLIST

Rate Your Property and Your Care of It

(See reverse side for topic details.)

1. Well

- Protected from contaminating motor oil, gas, road salt, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, garden and household chemicals; goose droppings, pet wastes, and horse manure.
- Non-discharging water softener installed to prevent release of salty water to groundwater.
- Chemicals not flushed down drain or poured onto ground, but disposed of properly or taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Day.
- Water conserved.

2. Fuel Tank

- Put above ground or in basement or garage.

3. Septic System

- Tank pumped every 2-3 years, more if needed.
- Additives and chemicals avoided.
- No medicines flushed down toilet.
- Laundry loads staggered during week.
- Stormwater diverted from septic tank/field.

4. Hazardous Household/Garden Chemicals

(paint thinners, pesticides, and more)

- Reduced or eliminated, where possible.
- Remainder given to friend who wants it.
- Taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day or disposed of properly.

5. Composting

- Formal or informal program begun on your property to recycle your organic waste, to create rich soil, avoid littering, lessen waste.

6. Stormwater Runoff

- Slowed by planted buffers, terracing, berms, or swales.
- Directed from roof, parking, and driveway into ground to increase infiltration and to prevent direct discharge onto street; into watercourses, wetlands, rivers, reservoirs, and L.I. Sound.
- Porous materials used for "paved" surfaces.
- Bare soil covered, seeded, or mulched to prevent or reduce erosion.
- Litter, goose and pet waste, and sediment prevented from washing into storm drains, wetlands, and watercourses.

7. Landscaping

- No fertilizers or pesticides used near well.
- Soils tested and chemicals reduced.
- Lawn areas decreased, mow height increased.
- Vegetated buffers as large as possible installed on slopes and by wetlands and watercourses.
- Trees planted to combat heat, noise, wind.
- Native, non-invasive plants used.
- Invasive plants removed or controlled.

8. Community and Watershed Protection

- Support funding for land purchases.
- Suggest specific land purchase to your local Conservation Commission or Land Trust.
- Support funding for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days.
- Help river, lake, beach, open space cleanups.
- Volunteer with conservation group to protect natural resources: help with river/lake monitoring, restoration projects, trail maintenance.
- Speak out on environmental issues and spread the message about responsible property management and landscaping.
- Report erosion to Town or watershed group.

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