

## WHAT ARE PATHOGENS?

Pathogens are microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, algae, and protozoan) that cause diseases in humans.

They are commonly associated with animal droppings and human sewage.

## HOW DO PATHOGENS ENTER SURFACE WATERS?

Storm water washes pathogens from the soil, sidewalks, and streets in your neighborhood into storm drains and through a network of storm sewers.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated directly into the water you are using for recreation.

## WHAT ARE THE THREATS?

Diseases are contacted through direct contact with or ingestion of contaminated water or consumption of shellfish from contaminated waters.

Economic losses associated with health care expenses and the closure of shellfish beds and swimming beaches can be very high.

## WHAT IS THE TOWN'S ROLE IN STORMWATER?

In recognition of the importance that construction activity has on the quality of local water bodies like the like the multiple small creeks and estuaries throughout the Town (the Connetquot River Estuary, and most importantly, the Great South Bay), the Town of Islip has implemented a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP).

The goal of the Town's SWMP is to reduce impacts of stormwater run-off thereby improving water quality and enhancing the recreational enjoyment, preventing beach closures, and ensuring that seafood is safer to eat.

In accordance with the Town's SWMP, the Town Code was amended to include Chapter 47—Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control.

The Town Code requires the owner/operator of any project proposing to disturb an acre or greater of land to prepare and submit a SWPPP to the Town for review and approval. The SWPPP, including inspection and records keeping requirements, must be implemented during construction activity.



*Town of*  
**Islip**

## STORMWATER EDUCATION

## PATHOGENS IN THE WATER



## HOW TO REDUCE PATHOGENS IN OUR WATERS

[www.islipny.gov](http://www.islipny.gov)

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

## DID YOU KNOW?

Whether you live on the waterfront or further in-land, your daily activities can pollute Long Island's waters.

Some common sources of pathogens in storm water include:

- Dog and other pet waste
- Equine/bovine waste
- Septic system/cesspool waste
- Waterfowl and other wildlife waste
- Livestock waste

Large amounts of pathogens can build up in storm water, which is then discharged into the nearest water body through a network of storm drains and pipes.

To prevent the spread of possible illness, public beaches are closed when pathogen counts are too high. Clean waters are important for public safety and for the economic health of the local community.

## DOG WASTE

- Always clean up after your dog.
- Flush dog waste down the toilet; or bag it and put it in the trash.
- Never throw dog waste or bags in storm drains.
- Do not bring dogs to Town parks or anywhere they are not permitted.

## GEESE AND WILDLIFE

- Clean up manure and soiled bedding on a regular basis.
- Store manure piles under cover and away from creeks and other drainage areas.
- Direct storm water away from manure piles.
- Do not feed waterfowl.

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS/ CESSPOOLS

- Have your system inspected once every three years by a septic system professional.
- Pump your tank as necessary, generally every three-to-five years. Tanks must be emptied by a licensed contractor and never into a storm sewer.
- Use water efficiently!
- Avoid driving or parking vehicles on your drain field.
- Plant only grass over and near your drain field to avoid damage from tree/shrub roots.

