

POND AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

Taking care of the stream and pond on your property is essential to the health of our watersheds.

REDUCE POLLUTION

Avoid using excessive fertilizers and chemicals to avoid pollution and an increase in vegetation growth and algal blooms.

RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Ensure your stream and pond banks are well vegetated to reduce the risk of sediment and chemicals entering the water. Well established buffers absorb pollutants and shade the waterbody, benefiting the ecosystem below.

FLOOD MITIGATION

Monitor your inlets, outlets and dams for excessive debris which may increase chances of flooding during storm events.

PERMIT ASSISTANCE

Any construction or disturbance activities (i.e. debris or sediment removal, dredging, bank stabilization) near waterbodies should be reviewed for necessary permitting. Contact our office when considering these projects.



Have additional questions?

Visit the NYS Water Quality website for more information

<https://water.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/waterqual/#/home>

Or contact us using the information below!

DUTCHESS COUNTY

soil & water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Since 1945

2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook NY 12545
845.677.8011 x 3 www.dutchesswcd.org

WATER MANAGEMENT ON YOUR PROPERTY



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FISH STOCKING

If you are interested in stocking your pond with fish for recreational fishing or to manage invasive and overgrown species, you can apply for a DEC fish stocking permit.

To Apply for Pond Stocking:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/fishstockap.pdf

Contact DCSWCD or visit the following site for a list of nearby hatcheries

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/52348.html>

WATER TESTING

DCSWCD does NOT provide water testing for pond or well water. If you need water quality testing, refer to Dutchess County Environmental Health Services for local certified laboratories.

<http://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Local-Laboratories-for-Water-Testing.htm>

ALGAL BLOOMS

Algae, in moderation, are beneficial to a pond ecosystem as the base of many food chains. In unhealthy conditions, algae quickly multiply blocking sunlight and reducing the oxygen supply for other aquatic species. These blooms can be prevented by using barley straw in the early spring and keeping the water well circulated. Reduce runoff and septic system seepage which cause excessive amounts of nutrients to enter the waterbody.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS)

While not all algae are toxic, there are a small group of approximately 40 species of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins. These toxins are known to cause neurological and liver dysfunction in humans and animals. These blooms are extremely quick to metastasize and can develop in less than 24 hours. Knowing whether an algal bloom is harmful or not is difficult without proper testing. It is best to avoid any water that has thick, blue, brown or green algae on the surface.

Think you found a harmful algal bloom?

Call (518) 402 - 8179 or visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Aquatic plants and animals are designated as invasive when they are introduced into an ecosystem and out-compete native species. These species have no natural predators and can quickly and aggressively reproduce. By recognizing and identifying invasive species, we can work to manage them properly.

Prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals by following clean boating practices and planting only native species. Contact the District for more information on the control of invasive species in your waterbody.

To see a detailed list of invasive aquatic species, visit the website below.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

