

9. Education is essential to changing people's behavior. Signs and markers near storm drains warn residents that pollutants entering the drains will be carried untreated into a local water body.

10. Buffer zones planted next to the shore's edge will eliminate runoff.



These are some of the “**significant**” changes that you and I can make to ensure that our pond does not deteriorate any further. We will then have to be “**vigilant**” in maintaining the standards of our watershed. It's imperative that we teach our children about the effects of runoff and dumping debris into our storm drains. We must teach them that whatever goes into the storm drain goes directly into our ponds, and not into sewer facilities as many people believe. Our ponds' “**existence**” depends on us and future generations.



The Pembroke Watershed Assoc. is a non profit organization made up entirely of members and volunteers from Oldham Pond, Furnace Pond, Stetson Pond, Hobomock Pond and Little Sandy Bottom Pond, as well as members who live several miles away from the ponds. We are all devoted to the preservation and protection of our natural resources, not only for the pleasure of recreational activities, but also for the protection of our drinking water.

We cannot do this alone, we need your help. Please join the Pembroke Watershed Association and know that you will be playing an important role in saving our ponds for future generations. Your membership donation will allow us to continue educating our community, and especially our children who will someday be stewards of our Pembroke ponds.

Please go to our website and download a Membership Form.

Ray Holman, President
Fred Baker, Vice President
Chuck McCabe, Treasurer
Beth York, Executive Secretary



Prochure by Diane Holman

PEMBROKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



HOW PROTECTING YOUR WATERSHED CAN IMPROVE OUR PONDS




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WHAT IS A WATERSHED

A watershed is an area of land from which water drains into a particular river or pond. A pond valued for recreation appeal can benefit all watershed residents and nonresidents by providing a healthy place for swimming, boating and fishing. A pond is the reflection of its watershed, (the land that drains into it). The importance of the relationship between a pond and its watershed cannot be over emphasized when restoring a pond.

MAJOR THREATS TO POND WATER QUALITY

1. Overabundance of nutrients leads to algae blooms and excessive plant growth which depletes oxygen supplies for fish and other aquatic life.
2. Organic wastes that assimilate and cause a lack of oxygen needed for fish and other aquatic life. 
3. Overabundance of sediment called "runoff" soil can fill ponds and destroy habitat for plants and animals, as well as clog fish gills and smother fish eggs.

PRIMARY SOURCES OF POLLUTION

1. Runoff from pavement and lawns in urban areas picks up oil, metals, bacteria (including E-Coli), and transports them through storm drains.
2. Urbanization of land increases hard surfaces like roads, parking lots, and rooftops. This increases the velocity of runoff reaching the pond and causes erosion, turbidity, and degraded wildlife habitats. Urban runoff also carries oil, bacteria, nutrients, sediment, and metals into ponds.
3. Using detergents containing phosphorous to wash boats and cars, in locations where the waste water can run off into the lake or storm drains adds unneeded nutrients. 
4. Over fertilizing your lawn or fertilizing at the shore's edge can also contribute excess nutrients to the pond. (Remember, a green lawn creates a green pond).
5. Clearing vegetation near and on the pond shore removes a natural buffering system which can help absorb nutrients and sediment runoff.

6. Poorly maintained powerboat engines can leak oil and grease into the pond.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Use organic fertilizers.
2. Wash your vehicles on the grass.
3. Repair leaks in your vehicles and dispose of auto fluids at recycling locations.
4. Sweep up litter from sidewalks and driveways especially around storm drains.
5. Pick up pet waste. 
6. Select native plants and grasses that are drought resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
7. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns or use a rain barrel to reduce runoff.
8. Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other material.