

# WATER QUALITY IN THE NASHUA RIVER

Did you know – **stormwater runoff**, or the rain and snowmelt that falls on the streets and is collected by storm drains, is one of the most significant sources of pollution in our waterways?

Did you know – the Nashua River is **impaired** for phosphorus and bacteria, which means that the concentrations of phosphorus and bacteria in the river are higher than state Water Quality Standards?

Did you know – **residential activities** like yard care, car washing, and dog walking contribute to stormwater pollution and can harm water quality?

Here's how Devens residents can help reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality:



## Pet Waste

Pick up after your dog! Pet Waste belongs in the trash, not in the storm drain.



## Leaf Litter

Leaves and other yard waste can be bagged for curbside pickup or composted for use as fertilizer. Do not dump leaves in the storm drain: decomposing leaves release excess nutrients into waterbodies, and leaf buildup in the drainage system can cause flooding.



## Lawns, Fertilizer, and Watering

Fertilizers with phosphorus are regulated in Massachusetts, and should only be used when planting a new lawn or if a soil test shows that the lawn needs phosphorus to grow. Chemicals used on lawns can run off into the storm drain, especially when lawns are over-watered, and contribute to pollution in the Nashua River.



## Grass Clippings

Grass clippings can be bagged for curbside pickup, brought to the Devens DPW, or composted and used for natural fertilizer! Do not dump grass clippings or other yard waste in the storm drain or in waterways.

## Questions?

More information is available at:  
[www.devenscommunity.com/live](http://www.devenscommunity.com/live)  
[www.devensec.com](http://www.devensec.com)

## Buy a Rain Barrel!



You can keep rainwater on your property by connecting rain barrels to your downspouts! Captured rainwater can be used to water the lawn or garden later, and reduces the amount of polluted stormwater that will reach the Nashua River.

## Car Care and Maintenance

Fluids and washwater from your car can contribute to stormwater pollution, especially when cars are stored outside. To reduce pollution potential, be sure to recycle motor oil and antifreeze, wash your car over the grass instead of on the driveway, use low-phosphate detergents when washing the car at home, and check for fluid leaks regularly.