

# Don't Obstruct Stormwater Outfalls!



Improper dumping of clippings, leaves, and other wastes can cause drainage problems and negatively impact the Town's wetlands, streams, and lakes.

**You can help protect waterbodies and storm sewer system function by properly disposing of yard wastes!**

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that does not infiltrate into the ground but instead flows over the ground, driveways, parking lots, roofs and through gutters on buildings into storm drains, and into the nearest waterway – our lakes, rivers, and streams. As it flows over the land surface, stormwater picks up or is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This untreated water is discharged into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

## Contact Information

For more information, visit <https://www.eastgreenbush.org/departments/planning-zoning/stormwater> or contact Dalia Szarowicz, the Town's Stormwater Public Contact at 518-694-4011 or [dszarowicz@eastgreenbush.org](mailto:dszarowicz@eastgreenbush.org).



## What's the problem?

Dumping leaves, grass clippings, prunings, and other yard wastes along stream banks, near low lying areas and wetlands, and at stormwater outfalls, impedes drainage, blocks water flow, and can degrade streambanks and waterways.



Dumping at outfall locations can impact the functioning of the Town's storm sewer system, leading to flooding and increased maintenance costs.

By inhibiting native vegetation, dumping yard clippings onto creek banks and obstructing outfalls can cause erosion, flooding, and depleted oxygen levels in watercourses.

Although a single pile of yard wastes may not seem problematic, when many of those living along a waterway improperly dump waste, the overall impact can be substantial and serious.

## What can you do?

- DON'T dump yard wastes improperly!
- DO dispose of yard wastes properly by taking yard wastes to the Town's Transfer Station, taking advantage of a **Cleanup Event**, or contacting a private hauler.
- DO generate less yard waste that requires hauling away by, for example, composting or mulching.

## What are stormwater outfalls?

Outfalls are points of discharge from stormwater pipes, which are part of the Town's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). Stormwater discharged from these locations leaves the storm sewer system and enters the Town's wetlands, streams, creeks, and lakes, and ultimately enters the Hudson River.



## What is the Town doing?

The Town's Department of Public Works (DPW) operates the East Greenbush **Transfer Station**, located at 246 Ridge Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144. All Residents can bring bagged brush/leaves/grass clippings (in brown, recyclable bags) at no charge.



The Town also conducts Spring and Fall **Cleanup Events**. During these Events, DPW staff will pick up from the roadside leaves and brush. Leaves and brush must be properly prepared. Visit the Town's website or call (518) 477-2005 for more information.

The Town will continue to work to educate property owners about stormwater issues and proper yard waste disposal practices.

## Other Best Practices to reduce stormwater pollution

- Mow your lawn so no more than one-third of the length of the grass is removed.
- Sweep grass on all paved areas onto lawn. Don't sweep into the roadway, gutters, or catch basins.
- Seed bare spots in your lawn.
- Do not over water. Excessive runoff wastes water and lawn treatments.
- Fertilize only when necessary or not at all. Have your soil tested before you apply!
- Don't fertilize hard surfaces.
- Don't apply lawn fertilizer between December 1st and April 1st.

### Did you know?

All the land in East Greenbush drains to the Hudson River Estuary via tributary streams. These tributaries provide important stream habitat for migratory fish species. Mill Creek, the Moordener Kill, and Papscanee Creek drain most of the Town's land and are important habitat for American Eel, which migrate hundreds of miles from East Greenbush to spawn in the Sargasso Sea.