



WATER QUALITY



FACT ONE



Water quality is a critical issue for Suffolk County, as it directly impacts our local economy and quality of life.

FACT TWO



More than 70% of water bodies in Suffolk County are negatively impacted by pathogens or nutrients.

FACT THREE



Through restoring shellfish populations, we can improve water quality. A single adult oyster can filter about 20,000 gallons of water per year!

FACT FOUR



The installation of rain gardens can prevent storm water pollutants from entering our waterways, by catching and filtering stormwater runoff.

For more information about Water Quality:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
<http://ccesuffolk.org/marine/water-quality>



Background

Water quality impacts commercial and recreational fishery landings, shellfish harvest restrictions, tourism, and public bathing beach closures. While many pollutants can negatively impact water quality, the pollutants of greatest concern in Suffolk County are **nitrogen and pathogens**.

Summary

A significant focus of water quality efforts is through stormwater management. Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. As it flows over impervious surfaces, it can collect pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oils and grease, animal wastes and sediment. These pollutants end up in our local water bodies.

Status

Through various efforts such as water quality sampling and analysis, stormwater management, habitat restoration projects, shellfish population enhancement, educational outreach and community stewardship events, CCE is working to improve the health of our waterways.

How You Can Help

CCE works with municipalities to help educate and develop program strategies so that the impacts of stormwater runoff are minimized. Please consider implementing some simple Best Management Practices (BMPs) at your home or business!

Visit www.suffolkstormwater.com/Best-Management-Practices for suggestions.

More than 70% of water bodies in Suffolk County are negatively impacted by pathogens or nutrients. CCE has been working to study and improve water quality on Long Island for over 30 years!



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Marine Program



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