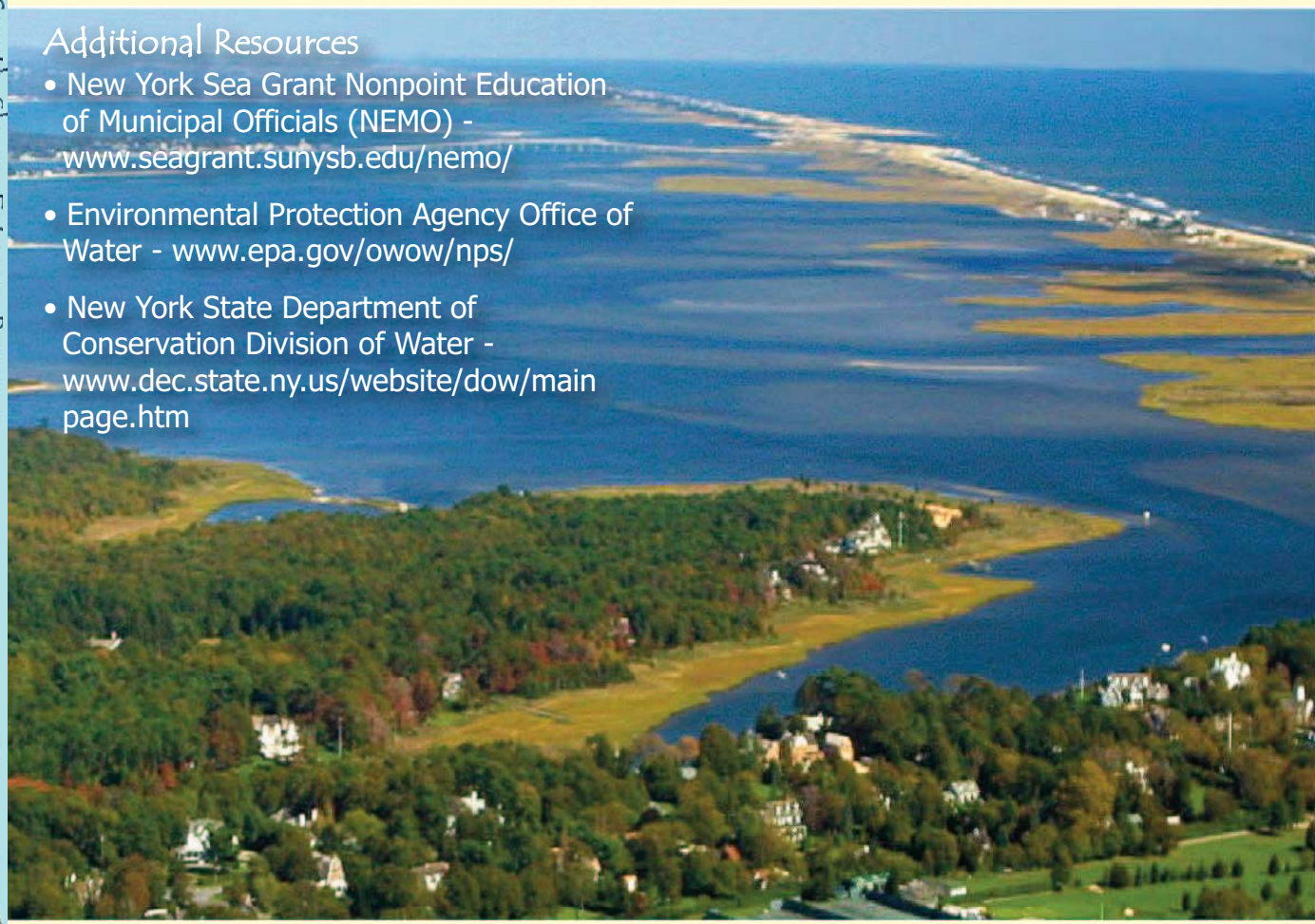


# PRESERVE THE RESERVE!

Additional information on ways to protect water quality in the South Shore Estuary Reserve may be obtained by calling **(516) 470-BAYS** or by visiting the Reserve Council website at [www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us)

## Additional Resources

- New York Sea Grant Nonpoint Education of Municipal Officials (NEMO) - [www.seagrantsunysb.edu/nemo/](http://www.seagrantsunysb.edu/nemo/)
- Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water - [www.epa.gov/owow/nps/](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/)
- New York State Department of Conservation Division of Water - [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm)



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A Citizen's Guide to Improving Water Quality in the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve

## Non Point Source Pollution and the South Shore Estuary Reserve

*Non point source pollution* is a significant obstacle to maintaining and improving water quality in the Reserve. Storm water runoff from roads, parking lots and construction activity can carry pollutants including petroleum products, contaminated sediments, lawn chemicals, and animal wastes into water bodies in the estuary. These pollutants negatively impact ecosystem health, and are a contributing factor in decreased populations of estuarine species and degraded habitat. Poor water quality from non point source pollution can limit recreational activity in the Reserve by causing closure of bathing beaches and fishing areas.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve Council has identified improving water quality as a priority action to protect and restore the estuary. There are several ways that citizens can prevent polluted runoff from entering the estuary by using *best management practices*.



### Household Maintenance

- Dispose of household chemicals properly at a hazardous waste collection location, not in storm sewers, drains, or cesspools.
- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into tributaries and bays in the Reserve.
- Sweep, rather than hose, driveways and other paved areas around the home. Do not sweep sediments into the street.
- Apply environmentally friendly de-icing materials to paved surfaces instead of traditional rock salt.
- Discharge the chlorinated water from swimming pools to land where it will not drain to local surface waters.

### Pet Waste Removal

Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of bathing areas. Pet owners should use "pooper scoopers" to pick up after their pets and dispose in proper receptacles.



### Motor Vehicle Care

- Maintain motor vehicles to avoid any leaking fluids such as oil, gasoline, anti-freeze or brake fluid which may enter storm water runoff and degrade water quality. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. Do not dump used motor oil down storm drains or on the ground.
- Wash cars and boats on a pervious surface using non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners. Avoid having wash water directed into storm drains. Use a hose nozzle to prevent water from running when not in use.



### Landscaping Practices

- Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn and garden chemicals when possible. Consider organic lawn care and use slow-release nitrogen fertilizers when absolutely necessary. Do not over fertilize. Store chemicals indoors where they will not come in contact with rain and pollute storm water.
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings for compost in your own yard. Do not place yard wastes into curbside drains which drain directly to water bodies.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Maintain adequate vegetation buffers of native woody plants along streams and ponds to filter toxins from runoff and protect against erosion.