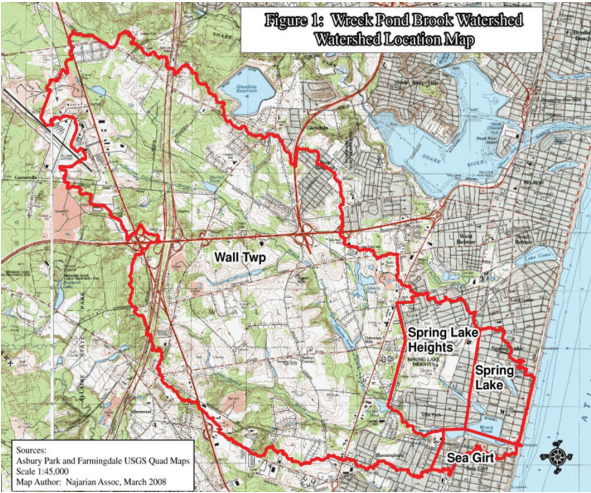


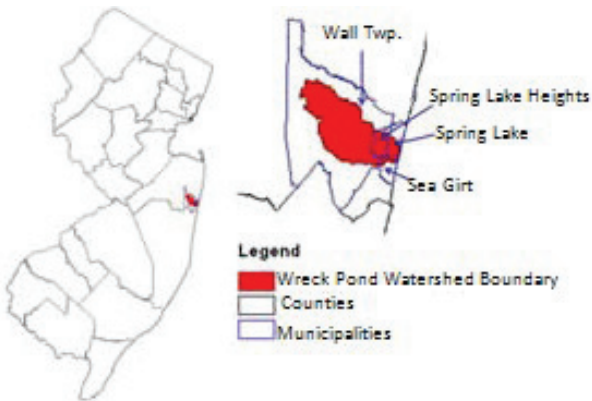
Wreck Pond Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a particular waterway; Spring Lake, Sea Girt, Wall, and Spring Lake Heights make up the Wreck Pond Watershed.



Fact: Wreck Pond is polluted with sediment, nutrients, and fecal contamination, including animal waste.

For more information on Wreck Pond Watershed Restoration go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wreckpond/>



New Jersey Fertilizer Law

New Jersey passed the nation’s toughest fertilizer law in 2012 to reduce the amount of pollution entering waterways. New Jersey is the first state to limit both nitrogen and phosphorous content of all fertilizer products sold at retail stores and to regulate the use of fertilizers by consumers and professionals. These new restrictions were needed due to the impact of over-fertilization on the health of waterways. Studies have found that high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in stormwater runoff cause nutrient-related impairments and negative changes to the ecosystem – killing fish caught for recreation, encouraging unsightly and sometimes harmful algae blooms, and making these areas less attractive for our native New Jersey wildlife.

This new fertilizer law puts many ‘best management’ practices into law. The new law applies to residential and commercial applications, but exempts farmers and golf courses. Fertilizer applications are now prohibited within 25 feet of any water-body. If special equipment is used, then the buffer may be reduced to 10 feet. A professional applicator may apply one ‘rescue treatment’ annually.

HEALTHY LAWN = HEALTHY WATER



If you use fertilizer...

- ⇒ For residential use, do not use between November 1st and March 1st. For professional use, do not use between December 1st and March 1st.
- ⇒ Do not purchase fertilizer with nitrogen or phosphorous.
- ⇒ All professional fertilizer applicators must be certified or trained and must receive annual training approved by Rutgers University.
- ⇒ Fertilizer applications are prohibited within 25 feet of any water-body.
- ⇒ Do not use before or during heavy rains or if the soil is saturated.
- ⇒ Ask your lawn care professional if they are certified.

Are you a Wreck Pond Pal?

Add 1 point for each Wreck Pond Pal action you do:

_____ Challenge Points

_____ Bonus Points

_____ **Total Score**

If you earned at least 30 points - **congratulations, you are a Pond Pal!** Clean Ocean Action will send you a letter and Pond Pal certificate. If you would like a Pond Pal Yard Medallion (6” recycled aluminum), please send a \$5 donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (for monthly updates): _____

Mail/Email this application :

Clean Ocean Action
18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2
Highlands, NJ 07732
732-872-0111 Fax: 732-872-8041



A special thank you to the Wreck Pond Brook Watershed Regional Stormwater Management Plan Committee and Education Subcommittee for reviewing, contributing to, and supporting the Wreck Pond Pal Program!



Become a
Wreck Pond Pal

**Help Protect your Waterway
and Reduce Flooding**

**Spring Lake, Sea Girt,
Wall Township & Spring Lake Heights**





Wreck Pond — Become a Pond Pal



Wreck Pond is 12 square-miles of important habitat for shore birds and fish, especially herring. The health of these waters are threatened by multiple problems. For example, fecal contamination pollutes both the pond and nearby storm drains, which can affect ocean waters and pose health risks to pond users and beachgoers. Sources can include leaking sewers, pet waste, and nuisance waterfowl. The region also has areas of extensive overdevelopment which dramatically increases the volume and speed of water flowing through the watershed. Pavements, rooftops, buildings, roadways, and even some lawns, prevent rain water from seeping naturally into the ground, which exacerbates flooding, soil erosion, and pollution (including animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides, litter, and leaking oil from cars). The polluted runoff leads to excess algae growth, degraded water quality and sedimentation. The inlet has been restricted, which limits natural flushing of the pond and fish passage.

Solutions

Since 2004, the Wreck Pond Brook Watershed Regional Stormwater Management Plan Committee (Wreck Pond RSMPC) has met to resolve problems in the watershed. Citizens, towns, Monmouth County, Rutgers University, and state and federal agencies participate in these meetings.

In 2012, a Wreck Pond Action Plan was developed based on the group's ongoing work. Efforts at every level continue to be needed, including sewer line and stormwater basin assessment, upgrades and repairs, living shoreline restoration, and more efforts that slow down and soak in water (rain gardens, barrels, cisterns, and pervious pavement).

Here's How You Can Help

Take Action: You can help by becoming a Pond Pal. Small actions can make a big difference and you may already be taking steps to reduce pollution in Wreck Pond.



The Challenge: Take the steps in this brochure to accumulate 30 challenge points or more and you will earn official **Pond Pal** certification. Each action is worth 1 point; bonus actions are worth 5 points.

Here's What You Can Do

Prevent Sources of Pollution:

- ☐ Never feed waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans, or gulls) to help limit the amount of animal waste and bacteria entering waterways.
- ☐ Pick-up and dispose of pet waste to prevent the bacteria and nitrogen it contains from entering waterways.
- ☐ Never dispose or leave hazardous materials, leaves, grass clippings, trash, pet waste, or motor oil on driveways or streets, in storm drains or the pond.
- ☐ Never spray pesticides and herbicides on your lawn, garden, or stones.
- ☐ Cover or stabilize any temporarily exposed soil to prevent erosion.
- ☐ Avoid de-icers by keeping areas clear of snow and ice. If necessary, use and store carefully.
- ☐ Ensure sewage lines on your property are functional, not leaking, and connected properly to wastewater lines - not stormwater lines.
- ☐ Use commercial car washes that recycle water and never wash cars in driveways, streets, or parking lots to prevent detergent from entering waterways.
- ☐ Maintain your vehicle so motor oil, antifreeze, and other toxic materials don't leak.

- ☐ Never litter, including cigarette filters, to prevent litter from entering into our waterways.
- ☐ Use only natural, biodegradable soaps in outside showers.
- ☐ Participate in at least one waterway cleanup per year.

Promote a Healthy Wreck Pond and Watershed:

- ☐ Recruit at least three Pond Pals for the watershed.
- ☐ Support funding initiatives for improved waste and stormwater management and living shorelines that buffer land, filter pollutants, and deter nuisance waterfowl.
- ☐ Attend town meetings or contact your Environmental Commission or Committee to promote Pond-friendly measures.
- ☐ Participate in monthly Wreck Pond RSMPC Meetings (see NJDEP Wreck Pond website).

Maintain Healthy Gardens and Grass:

- ☐ Plant native plants and trees. If needed, use naturalized plants for erosion control. Do not use invasive plants. For native plant/rain garden info, visit : www.npsnj.org.
- ☐ Plant low-nitrogen, drought tolerant grasses, such as tall fescue and/or fine fescue mixes with clover.
- ☐ Water lawns and gardens only when needed as indicated by wilt or slow growth.
- ☐ Water during early morning. Hand water or use drip irrigation to minimize the amount of water that runs off or evaporates. Never water before, during or after rain.
- ☐ De-thatch and aerate lawn to promote healthy growth and infiltration of water.
- ☐ Mow it and leave it! Grass and leaf clippings are natural fertilizers.
- ☐ Mow only when needed. Mow high (3-4 inches).
- ☐ Comply with new fertilizer laws. Use responsibly and only if absolutely necessary. Use compost or organic fertilizers.

Visit: snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/njfertilizerlawguide.html

Reduce Stormwater – Soak Rain into Your Yard to Prevent Flooding!

- ☐ Direct gutters away from pavement and into gardens and lawns to reduce runoff and increase infiltration. Take care to prevent erosion.
- ☐ Maintain a naturally vegetated buffer, or area of native plantings, along waterways to filter pollutants and discourage nuisance waterfowl. Follow regulations for buffer protection.
- ☐ Minimize lawn areas by creating naturalized areas and rain gardens to increase water filtering off the yard.
- ☐ When replacing patios and driveways, use semi-pervious materials and redirect runoff to lawn or garden areas by design or with drains.

Bonus Actions: (5 points each)

- ☐ Install and maintain rain barrels or cisterns on downspouts. Collect/use rain water for gardening.
- ☐ Create a rain garden in your yard.
- ☐ Never use fertilizer on your property.
- ☐ Decrease the amount of impervious surface to reduce runoff and increase infiltration of rain.
- ☐ Complete Wall Township's Clean Water and Lawn Conservation Program: wallnj.com/wteac
- ☐ 25% of property is pervious
- ☐ 50% of property is pervious (10 points)

