

1 LEARN ABOUT YOUR LOCAL WATERS. Everyone lives in a watershed, which is the drainage area to a local waterbody (think of washing everything in a sink down the drain and the drain is your local river or stream). The Westport River watershed is over 100 square miles. Check out our website to learn more: <http://westportwatershed.org>.

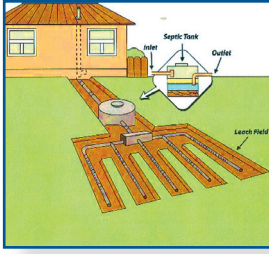
2 KEEP WILDLIFE WILD. Although you may enjoy feeding geese, ducks, gulls and other waterfowl, remember that they too contribute to the same type of pollution that limits swimming and shellfishing. One bird dropping can contaminate 10,000 gallons of water. Bread and other human food are bad for bird's digestive tracts too. Feeding waterfowl can also attract larger bird populations and does not provide birds with a healthy food choice. Don't feed the ducks.



3 PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS. Dog waste and feces from other warm-blooded animals pollute local waterways and are larger polluters than you may think. This type of pollution contributes to the closing of beaches and shellfish beds all over the state. Pick up your pet's waste and deposit it in the trash.



4 GET TO KNOW YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM. Almost every home in Westport uses some form of septic system for sewage disposal. Failing septic systems and cesspools are a major source of pollution to ground water and local streams. What you flush directly affects the water we drink and the waters where we fish, swim and boat. If you have a septic system, **inspect it regularly, and pump it every three years, it's a local regulation.** If you have a cesspool, replace it. For more information on maintaining a septic system visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/septic-systems-title-5>



5 AVOID PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS. During rainstorms, chemicals from lawn fertilizer are washed off lawns and paved areas into local waters. This type of pollution causes nuisance algal blooms and reduction of habitat and oxygen levels for many aquatic organisms.

6 MINIMIZE the use of hazardous products and **RECYCLE** as much as possible. Cleaning and other products contain many hazardous chemicals. Try to use non-toxic products or the least harmful items available.

7 GET INVOLVED WITH WRWA. Become a member. Volunteer. Help with clean-up efforts or be a volunteer water monitor. Participate in local activities that benefit the environment. Every little bit you do counts! Speak out. Attend public meetings that pertain to water quality. Your participation makes the statement that your community is concerned about local waterways. If you see a problem in your area or want something done, say something!



8 GET OUT AND ENJOY! Get out on the water. Swim, sail, surf, kayak, fish, windsurf, boat, shellfish, go birding or walk along the shore. Explore the waters near your home or visit other parts of the watershed. For information about beach closures, visit <http://mass.digitalhealthdepartment.com>. For information on shellfish bed closures, call the Westport Shellfish Status Hotline 508-636-1104. Make it a point to enjoy the benefits of living near the water, and while you're out there keep an eye out for problems or pollution sources. To file an environmental complaint with DEP (which can be



anonymous), call: 1-888-VIOLATE or online: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/about/contacts/environmental-complaint-form.html>

DO YOUR PART JOIN WRWA

- ___ \$50 Friend of the watershed
- ___ \$100 Contributor to the watershed
- ___ \$250 Steward of the watershed
- ___ \$500 Guardian of the watershed
- ___ \$1000 Benefactor of the watershed
- ___ \$___ Surprise Us!

Name _____
 Mailing address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 e-mail _____

Please make checks payable to **WRWA**. All membership contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

Mail to:
Westport River Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 3427
Westport, Massachusetts 02790-0703

Charge your membership:
 Mastercard/Visa/Discover/AMEX (please circle)

Amount to charge: _____
 Name on card: _____
 Card number: _____
 Exp Date (mm/yy) _____
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* last 3 digits back of card/ AMEX 4 digits on front
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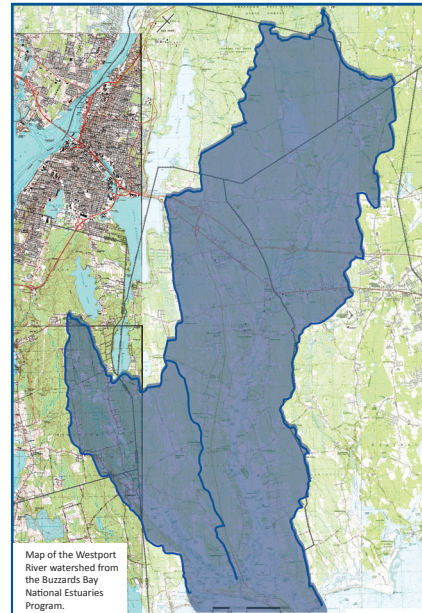
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When it comes to pollution—every home is waterfront property in the Westport River watershed



“I don’t live next to the Westport River, so how do I pollute it?”

INSIDE—8 things you can do for clean water in Westport. Everyone living and working in the blue area on the map can pollute the Westport River. This is because we all live or work in the Westport River watershed, the land area that drains into the Westport River.



Your Actions Make a Difference



WRWA’s mission:

To restore, protect, celebrate and sustain the natural resources of the Westport River and its watershed

Westport River Watershed Alliance

PO BOX 3427 • Westport, MA 02790 • 508-636-3016

www.westportwatersehd.org

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What is the Westport River Watershed Alliance?

Founded in 1976, the Westport River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) is a non-profit citizens group focused on three goals:

- Preserve and protect nature and clean water in the Westport River and its watershed.
- Support pollution control and wise use of local natural resources.
- Educate the public about how waters, soils, plants, animals, and people are all connected.



WRWA accomplishes these goals with the help of its membership and volunteers. People help with many tasks, including water testing, cleaning up beaches, helping with education and fundraising activities, attending events, and being watchdogs for local environmental issues.

We need you, too. Please join and help us:

- Provide a consistent proactive voice for river and groundwater protection.
- Support environmental education programs in Westport schools and other watershed municipalities.
- Ensure the watershed community will remain enlightened and aware of the unique and precious natural resources we all share.

What’s New at WRWA?



In spring of 2014 the WRWA bought the Head of Westport garage for a new headquarters, called the **River Center**. Generous financial support for building restoration and adaptation, including a large grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, has us close to overall fundraising goals. A few more contributions will enable us to transform our vision into reality. Next spring we expect to begin construction that will not only provide the WRWA a new and improved operating base, but also help restore and enhance the Head of Westport landing.



When completed, our River Center will:

- Better connect our community to the River,
- Expand public awareness of the River’s environmental well being,
- Introduce citizens to current environmental stewardship practices,
- Showcase technologies to support a zero carbon and zero nutrient impact, and
- Provide public access to ongoing scientific measures of local water quality.