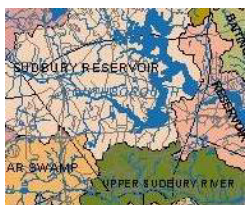


## 10 SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP CLEAN THE SUDBURY RESERVOIR AND THE SUDBURY RIVER IN SOUTHBOROUGH



There are many streams and rivers that flow through our backyards and drain into the Sudbury Reservoir or the Sudbury River and ultimately the ocean. Pollutants such as animal feces, fertilizer, oil, hazardous waste, road sand, and grease on the land can be washed into our waters, but we can reduce this type of pollution. Here is a list of 10 things you can do to help clean our local waterways.

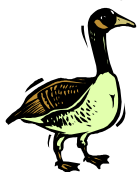


**1. Learn about** our local waters. Everyone lives in a **watershed**, which is the drainage area to a local waterbody (think of washing everything

in a sink down the drain and the drain is your local river or stream). The Town of Southborough is located entirely in the The Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Watershed (SuAsCo for short). The SuAsCo Watershed is located in the metro-west area of the state and encompasses a large network of tributaries, which ultimately contribute to the Merrimack River Watershed in the northeastern part of the state. Learn about local animal life and plants that live in and around these waters. Check out the SuAsCo website to find out more about our watershed at [www.suasco.org](http://www.suasco.org) or the Mass Riverways website at

[mass.gov/dfwele/river/riv\\_toc.htm](http://mass.gov/dfwele/river/riv_toc.htm)

**2. Don't feed geese!** 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 causes a nuisance on playing fields and people's lawns. 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 may cause some birds to stop migrating.



**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 algal blooms and high bacteria levels and is a nuisance to other users. Pick up your pet's waste and deposit it in a trashcan, **not a catch basin, storm drain or waterway/body.**



**4. Inspect septic systems.** All but one of Southborough's neighborhoods use septic systems for sewage disposal.



Failing septic systems or cesspools are a major source of pollution to ground water and local reservoirs. 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, pump and repair it as needed. If you have a cesspool, replace it. Do not install garbage disposals in a home with septic system or cesspool, as this can ruin your septic system. For more information on maintaining a healthy septic system contact the **Southborough Board of Health at 508-485-0710 x 3019.**



## 5. Take care of nearby storm drains.

Keep catch basins clear of rubbish, leaves, snow and other obstructions that impede their function.

## 6. Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn.

During rainstorms, **nutrients** from lawn fertilizer can be washed off lawns and paved areas into local waters. This type of pollution contributes to **eutrophication**, a process that causes



nuisance algal blooms and reduction of habitat and oxygen levels for many aquatic organisms. This leads to a decline in fish and shellfish populations, and reduces the diversity of fish in our waters. Get your soil tested to see if it really needs more fertilizer and if so, use as little as necessary. Read the label on fertilizer packages, apply according to directions, and clean-up any fertilizer left on paved areas. Also, reduce your lawn area by planting native, more drought-tolerant plants that are better adapted for the environment, and can act as buffers to prevent runoff from your lawn.

**7. Minimize** the use of hazardous products and **recycle** as much as possible. Cleaning and other household products

contain many hazardous chemicals. Try to use the least harmful products available. Dispose of household hazardous chemicals properly at the Town of Southborough's annual Household Hazardous Waste Day, held each fall.

Recycle non-hazardous items at the



Southborough Transfer

Station, open Wednesday

through Saturday 8am to

6pm. Recycling helps to

conserve natural

resources and reduces the

amount of refuse sent to Wheelabrator

and therefore reduces the Town's refuse

costs. Buy products made with or

packaged in recycled material to reduce

waste further. Start a compost bin or

bring yard waste to the Southborough

Transfer Station for composting, **DO**

**NOT DUMP LAWN CLIPPINGS INTO**

**DRAINAGE SWALES OR OTHER**

**WATERWAYS.** Look for notices

regarding Southborough's Household

Hazardous Waste Day and

Southborough's recycling program or call

the **Town of Southborough Transfer**

**Station at 508-485-2511.**



## 8. Get involved.

Volunteer. Help with clean-up efforts at

the Town's annual Spring Clean-up or join **S.W.A.M.P.** our local stream team. Every little bit you do counts! **Speak out.** Attend public meetings that pertain to water quality. Public involvement is imperative if our local and state public servants are to help us make large-scale improvements in our watershed. If you see a problem in one of Southborough's water bodies contact the **Southborough Department of Public Works at 508-485-1210.**



## 9. Conserve water.

Water conservation helps prevent septic

system failures and preserves one

of our most precious natural resources.

## 10. Get out!

Get out on the water at

Hopkinton State Park, on Route 85. Walk

along some of the area nature trails. Swim,

sail, surf, kayak, fish, windsurf, boat,

shellfish, go birding or walk

along the shore in different

parts of the state and New

England. 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. For information on local hiking

trails contact the **Southborough**

**Recreation Department at 508-229-**

**4452.**

