



www.co.gloucester.nj.us

A publication of the Gloucester County Board of Freeholders

Storm Water Management Program 2006

## *A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water*

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that is why we all need to do something about it.

Over the past two years Gloucester County has been working with our 24 municipalities to help them achieve their NJ DEP mandated goals for reducing pollution from stormwater runoff.

The County has used a regionalized effort to increase efficiency, reduce costs and most importantly, protect our environment and drinking water. We are making great strides, however we can't do it alone.

There is much action you and your family can take to protect our water. Inside you will find useful information from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Gloucester County that outlines how private citizens can make small changes in their daily habits which will yield big results in our environment and water quality.

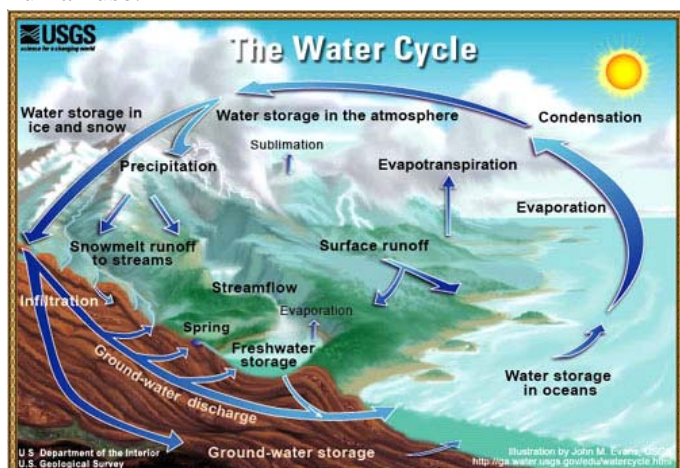
By working together as government and individuals, we can all enjoy cleaner water and a cleaner environment.



### *The Water Cycle*

The Earth's supply of fresh water is a precious and limited resource. Although 75% of the Earth's surface is covered by water, less than 3% of that water is fresh, and only one half of 1 percent (0.5) is readily accessible for human use.

*Log on to Gloucester County's Stormwater Management website at [www.gcstormwater.com](http://www.gcstormwater.com) to learn more about water quality, pollution prevention and stormwater management programs.*



Water continuously moves from the atmosphere to the land to the oceans and back to the atmosphere in what is known as the hydrologic or water cycle. After precipitation falls (in the form of rain, snow or ice), it may immediately begin to evaporate from the ground surface, plants and trees, or water bodies, back into the air. A small percentage will run off into streams and rivers, eventually making its way to the oceans. Most of the water soaks into the ground, where it either replenishes shallow aquifers that sustain streams and springs, or seeps into deeper aquifers that serve as large underground reservoirs of freshwater. Water may remain in deep aquifers for centuries or millennia, gradually moving toward and into the Delaware River and the sea, where it evaporates again into the atmosphere.

## ***What you can do to keep our water clean***

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes where our children play. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings – you name it and it ends up in our water.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As a resident of our community it is important to know these easy things you can do everyday to protect our water.

### **Limit your use of Fertilizers and Pesticides**

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizer and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.



### **Properly use & Dispose of Hazardous Products**

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality or the GCIA's Office of Recycling for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities. Visit [www.gcianj.com](http://www.gcianj.com) or call (856-478-6045) to learn about Household Special Waste Collection.

### **Keep Pollution out of Storm Drains**

- Remember that storm drains are connected to local waterbodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.

### **Clean up After Your Pet**

- Make sure you know your town's requirements and comply with them. It's the law. And remember:
  - ✓ Use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up waste.
  - ✓ Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet.
  - ✓ Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

### **Don't Feed Wildlife**

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Many municipalities and other public agencies have enacted and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

### **Don't Litter**

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups. Call the Clean Communities Program (856-478-6045) to find out how.

### **Dispose of Yard Waste Properly**

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- Follow your municipality's yard waste collection rules.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

*Learn more about  
pollution prevention,  
municipal and regional  
stormwater cooperation,  
and watersheds at  
[www.gcostormwater.com](http://www.gcostormwater.com)*

## County Constructing Five Salt Storage Sheds Throughout the Region with help of a \$1 million grant

*'Regional approach saves taxpayer dollars and makes sense'*

Gloucester County is in the process of building five salt storage facilities throughout the county as part of its Stormwater Management Program.

“Gloucester County is the only county in the state who has taken this innovative approach to regionalizing this program, and because of this approach we have received \$10 million from the state Environmental Infrastructure Trust to fund the construction of salt storage sheds and other essential equipment,” stated Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney.

The five regional sheds are being constructed in Mantua, Woolwich, West Deptford, Washington and Franklin Townships. This regional approach allows all of the municipalities to comply with the DEP’s Stormwater Management requirements while sparing them the expense of each of them having to build their own facility.

“Taxpayers want to see their governments working together toward solutions to issues like this and they are right – sharing and regionalizing services like this is the way to go and I am optimistic that we can all keep working together toward finding similar solutions,” Sweeney said.

Freeholder Bob Damminger, liaison to the County’s Highway Department, said, “These sheds will be available for salt storage and loading salt trucks from the surrounding municipalities and the County’s highway department on a cooperative basis. The county is also going to construct two vehicle washing facilities for use by all of the county’s municipalities.”

“When the snow and ice comes, we all work together to keep our roads clear and safe,” said Damminger. “The county has had many agreements with our towns in the past to help clear roads, and with the new salt sheds facilities, I only see cooperation between the towns becoming even stronger,” stated Damminger.

The Freeholders explained that the location for the salt sheds and vehicle wash facilities were evaluated using a number of criteria including the lack of an existing compliant salt storage facility, proximity to other towns in a similar situation, adequate staffing levels for loading neighboring municipal vehicles, availability of municipal land appropriate for this purpose and a location that will assist with county highway deicing during a storm.



*Freeholder Director Sweeney and Freeholder Deputy Director Damminger announce the Regional Stormwater Management Program and Salt Storage Sheds the county is constructing for its municipalities to utilize.*



### Recycling & Household Special Waste Collection in Gloucester County

The GCIA/Office of Recycling is a busy place, but they would like you to make them even busier. In addition to operating the county’s Recycling facility, they run a Recycling Education Program, the Clean Communities Program, teach about home composting and offer many other important educational and operational programs to get residents recycling. The Office of Recycling also holds several Household Special Waste Collection Days a year to help residents properly dispose of common products that cannot be put into the regular waste stream.

For information about Recycling in Gloucester County or Household Special Waste Collection, visit them on the web at [www.gcianj.com](http://www.gcianj.com) and click on the County Recycling Link, or reach them by calling (856) 478-6045.

The GCIA/Office of Recycling is located at the Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex in South Harrison Township.

### Storm Drain Inlet Labeling & Local Public Education



In cooperation with its municipalities and the South Jersey Land and Water Trust, Gloucester County has implemented a comprehensive program for stormwater inlet labeling. As part of the DEP permit process,

each municipality is required to label storm drain inlets that drain to water bodies. The Gloucester Co. Improvement Authority (GCIA) purchased labels and worked with township public works officials to identify the areas within each municipality where labeling is required. The GCIA also provided door hangers that educate residents in the area where the labeling has occurred about non-point source pollution. The South Jersey Land and Water Trust then helped coordinate and organize volunteer groups in many neighborhoods for the distribution of the hangers.

*(Pictured above: A Girl Scout labels a storm drain in W. Deptford)*

# Watersheds of Gloucester County

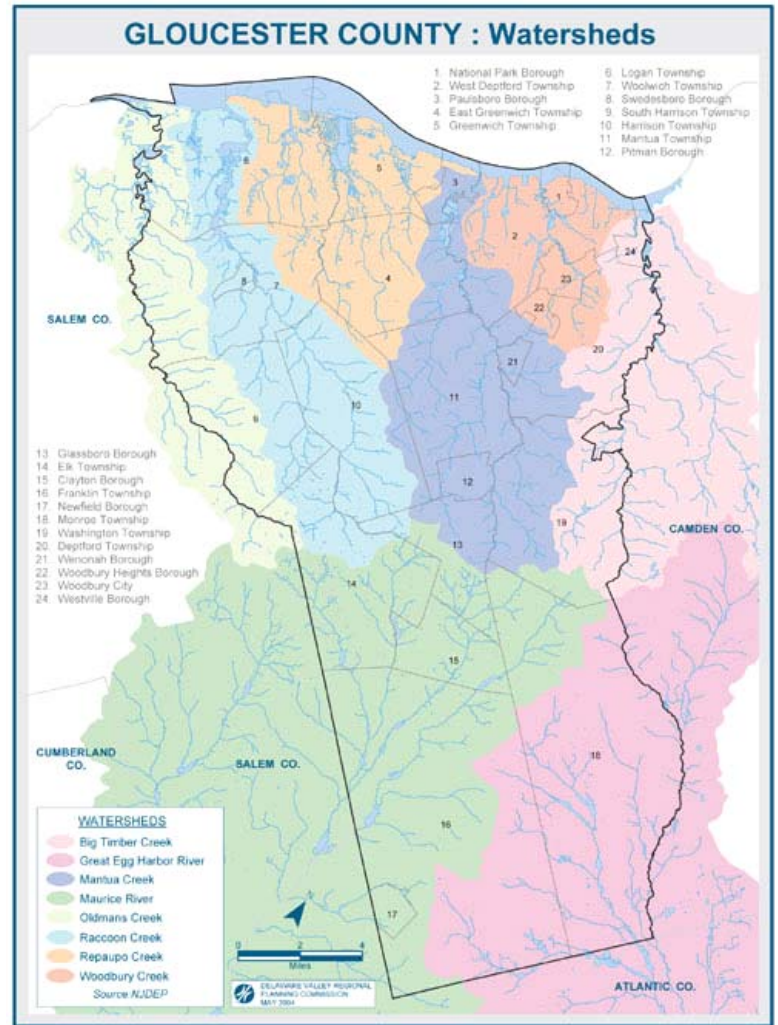
There are eight watersheds that are wholly or partially within Gloucester County. Two of these consist of the headwater streams of two large river systems. These watersheds occupy 39.2 percent or 131.6 square miles of Gloucester territory. They are the Great Egg Harbor River watershed and the Maurice River watershed.

The Great Egg Harbor River flows southeast and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The Maurice River flows south to the Delaware Bay.

The U.S. National Park Service has designated both of these rivers as national Scenic and Recreational Rivers, because of their importance to the nation's cultural and natural heritage. Such rivers are generally free flowing and relatively undeveloped and have features that are "outstandingly remarkable" for their scenic or recreational value.

The other six watersheds in Gloucester County have streams that flow northwestward to the Delaware River. These six smaller watersheds make up 60.8 percent or 204.3 square miles of Gloucester County. They are, from north to south: the Big Timber Creek watershed, two-thirds of which is located in Camden County; the Woodbury Creek watershed; the Mantua Creek watershed; the Repaupo Creek watershed; the Raccoon Creek watershed; and the Oldmans Creek watershed, half of which is within Salem County.

Source: *A Teacher's Guide to the Watersheds of Gloucester County*, [www.silandandwater.org](http://www.silandandwater.org)



- Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders**
- Stephen M. Sweeney, Director** 853-3390
- Robert M. Damminger, Deputy Director** 853-3395
- Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi, Jr.** 853-3386
- Freeholder Frank J. DiMarco** 853-3384
- Freeholder William M. Krebs** 853-3382
- Freeholder Helene M. Reed** 853-3383
- Freeholder Warren S. Wallace, Ed. D.** 853-3380
- Row Officers**
- Clerk James N. Hogan** 853-3237
- Surrogate Stephen R. Salvatore** 853-3282
- Sheriff Gilbert Miller III** 384-4600
- Prosecutor Sean Dalton** 384-5500