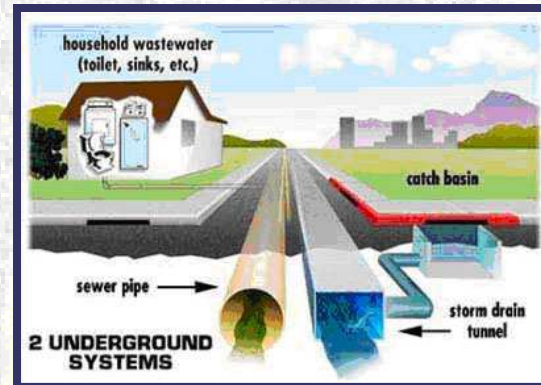


# Rain, Rain, Go Away... But Pollution Ends Up In The Great South Bay!

## The Town of Babylon Storm Drain System

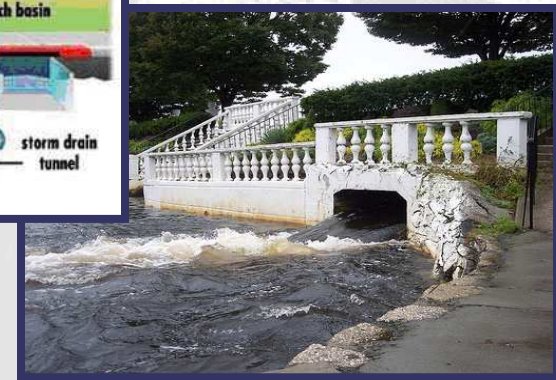
Storm drains are constructed to prevent flooding by diverting excess stormwater off streets and into local waters. Chemicals that are used or disposed of improperly frequently mix with stormwater and are transported by the same system into our local streams and lakes, like the Carll's River and Belmont Lake. Once in our environment, these chemicals eventually end up in the Great South Bay and the aquifer that is the source of our drinking water.



- Storm Drain water does not enter the sewer system. (above)
- Storm drains carry runoff to local parks and waterways. (right)



### PHASE II PROGRAM



## COMMON CULPRITS

- ☞ Sediment - Dirt and leaves clog pipes, causing flooding, and fill in flowing streams. Sediment in the water column affects the clarity of surface waters and impacts wildlife.
- ☞ Fertilizers - Chemicals in fertilizers are washed down the drain and cause excessive algae growth that deprives fish and other aquatic life of oxygen. It turns beautiful ponds into green slimy muck.
- ☞ Oil & Grease - Dumped cooking and engine oil and chemicals from leaking cars coat streambeds and seep into soil, possibly reaching the groundwater we drink.
- ☞ Pesticides/Herbicides - are poisons that are carried away by rainwater and end up in waterways, killing fish and other organisms.
- ☞ Animal Waste - Transported into the storm drain system, elevates bacteria levels and contributes to beach and shellfish ground closures.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ☞ See any discharge? Say something - Report any discharge to the Department of Environmental Control (631) 422-7640.
- ☞ Be conscious of your actions - Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides only when necessary and in the smallest amounts possible. Follow manufacturers' directions. Don't put things in the drain that you don't want in your water.
- ☞ Use an oil drip pan and other preventative measures if you work on your car. Properly dispose of chemicals.
- ☞ Pet Waste Management - Clean up after your pet. It is a violation of Town Code to deposit animal waste on our streets. Free Pooper Scoopers are available for Town Residents from the Town of Babylon Animal Shelter (631) 643-9270.
- ☞ Educate others - Tell neighbors about the dangers of pollution through storm drains - their pollution affects your family too!