

Watershed



A watershed, by definition, is an area of land that drains into a receiving body of water. The Manhasset Bay watershed, depicted by the dashed line, covers almost 10,000 acres and spans numerous municipalities and twelve sub-watersheds, each with its own set of environmental concerns. Pollutants and sediments travel to Manhasset Bay in water that drains via streets, storm sewers, and ponds from these sub-watersheds. These pollutants and sediments then accumulate causing significant damage by lowering water quality and depositing in the bay to build up mud flats and sand bars. For example, due to sediment accumulation in the lower Bay, this area is now navigable only at high tide.

To help stem sediment pollution, municipal governments have adopted best management practices and ordinances to control polluted discharge. Homeowners can help by taking responsible actions so that these pollutants and sediments do not wash off their properties. Potential pollutant and sediment sources around the home can be such things as herbicides, fertilizers, soaps, organic debris (such as leaves and grass), trash, loose sand and soil, and improperly maintained cesspools and septic systems.

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