HOW CAN YOU HELP KEEP LAKE CHAMPLAIN **CLEAN?**

By reducing stormwater runoff around your house, you can minimize the amount of pollutants and sediment it carries into storm drains, streams rivers and lakes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

INSTALL A RAIN BARREL / REDUCE / AVOID REDIRECT YOUR GUTTERS LAWN FERTILIZERS

Installing a rain barrel or redirecting your rain gutters to your lawn or garden reduces the amount of water that gets carried into the storm drains.

SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP ALL YEAR LONG

Dog poop can contribute phosphorus and *E. coli* to the streams, rivers and Lake Champlain, causing algae blooms and bacteria outbreaks.

Stormwater runoff can wash fertilizers into the storm drains, bringing the nutrients that feed algae blooms into the rivers, lakes, and streams.

PRACTICE ECO-FRIENDLY CAR CARE

Washing your car on pavement will send detergents directly into storm drains. Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on your lawn.



HOW DOES RAIN AND STORMWATER RUNOFF AFFECT LAKE CHAMPLAIN?

Excess water from rain or snowmelt flows over hard surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets, picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, chemicals, nutrients, metals, and bacteria. These flow into stormwater systems or directly to streams, rivers, and eventually Lake Champlain.

The actions of every person in Chittenden County can impact local streams and rivers, which in turn affect Lake Champlain. By taking small steps around your home, you can help reduce runoff, as well as the pollutants that enter local streams and rivers and help keep Lake Champlain clean.



Rethink Runoff is a campaign that raises awareness and educates citizens across a nine-municipality area in Chittenden County, Vermont about stormwater runoff and it effects on streams, rivers and Lake Champlain.

RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP REDUCE Stormwater Runoff?

SIGN UP TODAY AND JOIN...



The Stream Team is a group of clean waterminded volunteers working to improve water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin

We offer volunteer opportunities, engaging events, and educational workshops.

HERE'S ARE A FEW THINGS WE DO:

WATER QUALITY MONITORING JOIN OUR TEAM!

Join our team of citizen-science volunteers who collect water samples from streams on a bi-weekly basis throughout the summer. These samples are vital in helping to monitor trends in levels of phosphorus, and chloride (road salt) in our waterways.

ADOPT-A-RAIN GARDEN SLOW THE FLOW!

Do you have a green thumb? Help us keep our rain gardens clean and healthy. Rain gardens help to "Slow the Flow" by absorbing and filtering rainwater. Volunteers sign up for 1-2 years of stewardship and help with spring mulching and periodic weeding. The gardens capture their own water, so they don't require much maintenance!

Learn more about The Stream Team at **RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG/THESTREAMTEAM**



STREAM CLEAN-UPS GET INVOLVED!

Stream Team volunteers help recover trash that has washed into the waterways. From tires to old toys, we never know what we'll find. This is a great way to get involved if you don't mind getting wet and getting your hands dirty for conservation.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS COME TOGETHER!

Throughout the year, we offer a variety of workshops on topics like green lawn care or how to build a rain barrel. We often organize storm drain mural painting contests, bringing together art and clean water messages. We are also available to present to school groups, homeowners associations, or community groups.



Rethink Runoff is a campaign that raises awareness and educates citizens across a nine-municipality area in Chittenden County, Vermont about stormwater runoff and it effects on streams, rivers and Lake Champlain.

RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF?



INSTALLA RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is a specially designed landscaped areas that provides natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground.

Rain from roof downspouts or paved areas is directed to a rain garden to allow it to pool for a short period of time. The water then soaks into the ground where it is cleaned by the plants and microbes in the soil.

This water recharges the ground water supply which maintains the ecological balance in nearby streams. Most importantly, a rain garden prevents rapid and excessive discharge of stormwater which causes erosion.

All it takes is a little planning, a shovel, some plants, and some mulch. It is easy and can be dug and planted in an afternoon.

Learn more about rain gardens at RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG/RAINGARDEN

FAQs ABOUT RAIN GARDENS

Does a rain garden form a pond?

No. After most storms, a properly constructed rain garden will absorb water within a period of 24 hours and not more than 48 hours for larger storms depending on the soil type.

Do mosquitoes breed in rain gardens?

No. Mosquitoes require 7 to 12 days of standing water to lay and hatch eggs. Standing water will only last a few hours after most storms.

Do they require maintenance?

Like any garden, diligent weeding and watering will be needed in the first two years. As the garden matures, maintenance requirements will lessen. Plants may need to be thinned after a few years.

How much does a rain garden cost?

The cost varies depending on who does the work, the size of the garden, where the plants come from, and the planting density. If you purchase the plants and materials but you do all the labor, the cost will be roughly \$4-\$6 per sq ft. If you hire a professional to design and install the garden, it will cost roughly \$10-\$14 per sq ft.



Rethink Runoff is a campaign that raises awareness and educates citizens across a nine-municipality area in Chittenden County, Vermont about stormwater runoff and it effects on streams, rivers and Lake Champlain.

RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG





4.75 x 5.56 print ad

- Launching in May/June.
- Exact placement TBD definitely digital, maybe print.
- Drive to new page on the website, which is currently being created.



LEARN MORE AT RETHINKRUNOFF.ORG

300x250 digital ad

Brook Trout







Spiny soft-shelled Turtle





A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet, such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or in this case, Lake Champlain. The word watershed is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment.

The watershed consists of surface water-lakes, streams, reservoirs, and wetlands-and all the underlying ground water.

Larger watersheds contain many smaller watersheds. It all depends on the outflow point; all of the land that drains water to the outflow point is the watershed for that outflow location.

There are 11 different sub-basin or smaller watersheds that feed into the Lake Champlain watershed. Some of the smaller watersheds are on the New York side of the lake, some are on the Vermont side, and some extend into Canada.

Watersheds are often separated by hills, mountains, or other geographic features.

Rain and snow melt is commonly referred to as stormwater. Any stormwater not absorbed by the ground flows into stream and rivers, carrying with it pollutants and dirt it picks up along the way. As it travels through the streams and rivers, some pollutants and dirt remain.

Over time, streams and rivers carry stormwater into Lake Champlain. The stormwater carried into Lake Champlain brings with it pollutants and dirt.

Water that is absorbed by the ground is often filtered before it reaches groundwater deposits. This groundwater also feeds into the lake underground via percolation.

By decreasing the amount of stormwater that flows directly into streams and rivers, you can help reduce the pollutants and dirt in streams, rivers, and Lake Champlain.





