

Pound Ridge is unique among our neighboring towns in that we have no public water and no public sewage system.

Our topography of hills and rock outcroppings makes it prohibitively expensive to lay pipes for a town-wide water and sewer system.

**Protecting your water is up to you.**

RESIDENT, TOWN OF POUND RIDGE  
POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK 10576

Pound Ridge Conservation Board  
Town House, Westchester Avenue  
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

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# YOUR WATER AND YOUR LIFE

**Protecting them is up to you!**

A mailing of importance from The Pound Ridge Conservation Board  
Visit us at: [www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation](http://www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation) for more information.

## **Every Pound Ridge family has the responsibility to maintain the quality of their drinking water.**

If you pollute your well no government or agency will clean it up. Because neighborhoods share water tables, your actions can affect your neighbors' drinking water.

This reality has been the theme of most of our mailers and has influenced many of our Town codes.

We've sent you mailers about septic systems, the water cycle, the role of deer management in our environment and, because it is so important, two flyers about the use of lawn chemicals. All mailers are available on the town website:

[www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation](http://www.townofpoundridge.com/conservation).

### **The town has many ordinances protecting our water quality.**

**Our wetlands ordinance** limits building within 150 feet of a wetland by requiring permits to ensure the beneficial functions of wetlands, like natural flood and stormwater control, groundwater recharge, natural pollution treatment, erosion and sediment control and wildlife habitat protection.

**Site plan review** is required of all lots with excessive lot coverage to assess drainage issues of both impervious and pervious surfaces

**Our steep slope ordinance** helps protect our wetlands by limiting erosion. Erosion can result in the degradation of surface water quality and the siltation of wetlands, thereby limiting or possibly destroying the ability of those wetlands to function.

**The tree ordinance** was put into place not just to protect our older trees, but because the roots of those trees help to prevent erosion and thereby the siltation of our wetlands and help to filter pollutants.

**Best practices** have led us to change the way we clear winter roads by using less salt. We are also working to control stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt flows over impervious surfaces like driveways, roads (even pools and tennis courts) and can not be absorbed into the ground. The runoff picks up debris, and pollutants that then flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream or wetland. These pollutants can overwhelm the natural pollution treatment of our wetlands.

The Town is implementing new laws governing the regular cleaning of septic tanks which will help insure that they function properly.

**The County**, in 2011, will ban the sale of fertilizers with phosphorous, a chemical that promotes algae blooms in our ponds and streams and removes oxygen from the water. The county also requires inspection of in-ground oil tanks.

As the environmental scientists who performed an ecological evaluation of Pound Ridge (the PRUP study) stated, *"As a rule when the limits of nature's watersheds are reached, services such as public water, sewage and flood control projects must take over, usually at great trauma and expense."*

**For more information and discussion of this topic please come to the Supervisor's forum Saturday, 11/6/2010, 10AM at Town House.**

## **Your well and your water**

Most of Pound Ridge's water comes from rainfall. Half of the rain is absorbed by vegetation or evaporates. The other half percolates into the soil and eventually finds its way into rivers and underground rock formations.

Aquifers store the water purified by the soil bed of our wetlands. Wells are drilled down into the bedrock. They intercept the cracks and fractures letting the groundwater from over a wide area supply your well.

There are three primary watersheds in Pound Ridge which supply all of our water.

While your well is private and on your property, the water you draw from it comes from the same aquifer you share with your neighbors.

In dry seasons when one homeowner chooses to use a lot of water, another homeowner's well can run dry.

Should an in-ground oil tank leak, an entire neighborhood's water supply can be affected.

Our water is a finite resource that we cannot take for granted.

Remember, the quality and amount of water in your well is controlled by you!