

# Preventing Phosphorus Pollution

A Guide for Contractors, Developers, and Design Professionals in Pound Ridge, NY

## Protecting Our Watershed Through Smarter Design and Construction

Phosphorus is a leading cause of water quality issues in the Croton Reservoir Watershed, which serves as a drinking water source for millions. As professionals shaping the built environment in Pound Ridge, contractors, developers, and design teams have a responsibility to reduce phosphorus runoff and support sustainable practices.

## Key Practices for Phosphorus Pollution Prevention

### 1. Design with Stormwater in Mind

- Integrate rain gardens, vegetated swales, and permeable paving into site plans.
- Preserve natural topography and vegetation where possible to reduce runoff velocity and nutrient loading.
- Comply with Pound Ridge stormwater regulations that limit runoff volumes and phosphorus export.

### 2. Limit Use of Phosphorus-Based Fertilizers

- Specify and apply only phosphorus-free fertilizers for landscaping except where soil testing justifies use.
- Avoid fertilizing near streams, wetlands, or storm drains.

### 3. Specify Native and Low-Maintenance Plantings

- Use native or adaptive plants in landscape design to minimize fertilizer needs.
- Reduce turf areas and prioritize bioswales and natural buffers.

### 4. Install and Maintain Erosion and Sediment Controls

- Use silt fences, hay bales, and sediment traps to prevent runoff during construction.
- Stabilize disturbed soils quickly to prevent erosion and phosphorus transport.

### 5. Support Clients with Septic Awareness

- For projects using on-site septic systems, ensure clients are aware of:
  - Proper system sizing and siting.
  - Regular maintenance schedules.
  - Phosphorus risks from system failure.

### 6. Use Phosphorus-Free Construction Materials Where Applicable

- Avoid unnecessary use of phosphorus-based cleaning agents during site prep or post-construction cleaning.
- Encourage subcontractors to adopt low-phosphorus best practices.

## Additional Resources

- Westchester County Dept. of Health: [health.westchestergov.com](https://health.westchestergov.com)
- Pound Ridge Town Code (Septic & Stormwater): [ecode360.com/8164753](https://ecode360.com/8164753)
- NYS DEC Phosphorus Lawn Care Guidelines: [dec.ny.gov](https://dec.ny.gov)

## Your Role Matters

Design and construction professionals are key partners in protecting the watershed. By incorporating phosphorus-conscious strategies at every project phase—from site planning to post-occupancy—you help ensure a cleaner, healthier Pound Ridge.