

# CONTROLLING NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

A Management Plan for the Watersheds of Stephenson Brook, Burling Brook, Pine Brook and Larchmont Harbor

Prepared by Watershed Advisory Committee 5 and  
Westchester County Department of Planning

June 1997



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## Preface

This management plan was produced in accordance with the "Report and Recommendations" (1993) of the County Executive's Citizens Committee on Nonpoint Source Pollution in Long Island Sound. The principles of the plan have been endorsed by four of the municipalities in the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC 5) study area. These are the City of New Rochelle, Town of Mamaroneck, Village of Mamaroneck, and Village of Larchmont (see appendix for copies of the resolutions endorsing the plan). These municipalities have pledged to work together and with the County of Westchester to improve the quality of Long Island Sound by controlling nonpoint source pollution.

Preparation of the plan was supported by a 604(b) Water Quality Management Program Planning Grant from Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act under contract Nos. C003021 - Appendix H and C003175 - Appendix N from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The plan is divided into two sections, the first containing the recommended action plan for the WAC 5 study area of the Long Island Sound watershed and the second assessing specific water quality protection techniques recommended in the first section. Section I of the plan provides a broad understanding of watershed planning for the Long Island Sound watershed. It outlines Westchester County's nonpoint source pollution control program and makes specific recommendations for controlling nonpoint source pollution in the WAC 5 study area. This section describes characteristics of the study area, such as land use and demographics, and includes the results of watershed analyses and recommendations to reduce the volume of nonpoint source pollution entering Long Island Sound. The first section is specific to the WAC 5 study area and is an "action-oriented" document.

Section II of the Plan highlights threats to water resources, identifies pollutants impacting water quality, and discusses management strategies and practices to protect, preserve and restore natural features that are essential to ensuring good water quality in a watershed. This section is intended to be an education tool to introduce the public and municipal officials to watershed planning, nonpoint source pollution control and the various ways to reduce the threat of nonpoint source pollution.

The two sections complement each other and provide all the necessary components of a comprehensive watershed plan. These documents are intended to assist the restoration of one of the region's most valuable natural resources -Long Island Sound.

**ABOUT THE COVER:** The photographs on the front cover illustrate some of the recommendations of WAC S's nonpoint source pollution control plan, such as stream and wetland restoration and public education. By illustrating "before" and "after" scenes of successful pollution control projects in Westchester County, the cover demonstrates that projects can be successfully implemented in the county's Long Island Sound watershed. At the top, a view of a section of Tibbetts Brook in Yonkers before and after "restoration," which involved stabilizing the stream bank with vegetation. The middle photographs illustrate a degraded freshwater wetland in the Hudson River watershed, which was restored to its former condition and value for water quality protection. At the bottom, a Long Island Sound watershed resident spread nutrient-rich fertilizer on his lawn before realizing that much of the fertilizer will be swept away in stormwater runoff. The runoff will enter storm drains and, eventually, Long Island Sound, where the nutrients will feed algae and promote low oxygen levels.