



# Do You Like to Fish?

## Town of Hillsborough Information Sheet

Then please read more because there's an evil villain lurking outside every time it rains. It's called ...

### Stormwater Runoff Pollution

As stormwater runoff flows across exposed soil or impervious surfaces — such as pavement or rooftops — it picks up various pollutants. Polluted stormwater flows down our storm drains and through our ditches, where it is discharged untreated into our streams, rivers and lakes — right on top of where fish live!

Stormwater runoff pollution reduces the number of fish to catch. Here's why:



### Sediment

Sediment from land-disturbing activities like construction can pollute stormwater runoff, which in turn can clog fish gills and smother fish eggs. It also covers up the bottom of streams, rivers and lakes, so that aquatic bugs and small fish have no place to live. Aquatic bugs and small fish are eaten by bigger fish — the ones we like to catch. If the bugs and small fish don't have a place to live, the bigger fish will soon die.



### Excess Nutrients

Excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) cause algae to grow quickly, making it hard to fish. What's even worse is algae use a lot of oxygen in the water — oxygen that fish need to survive. In fact, when algae die, the oxygen in the water can drop so dramatically that the decline causes large fish kills!



### Toxic Chemicals

Toxic chemicals from pesticides, oil, grease and other sources can poison fish. Those poisons can collect in the bodies of fish, and the poisons can be passed straight up the food chain to animals that eat the fish, including humans!

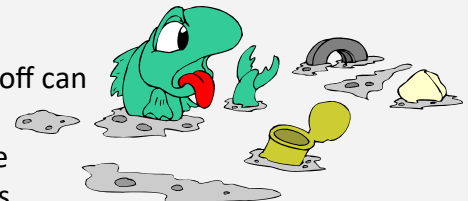


### Trash

Fish and other animals living in or near the water can get entangled in trash, especially discarded fishing line. Also, trash is just plain ugly!

### Temperature

Stormwater runoff can also increase the temperature of streams, lakes and rivers. It's called thermal pollution. As stormwater runs off parking lots and rooftops, it gets warmer. Warmer water has less oxygen for fish and other aquatic organisms. This is especially important for fish like freshwater trout that need cold, clean water to live.



## But You Can Help Reduce Stormwater Runoff Pollution!

Just follow the ten steps to better fishing listed on the back of this page.

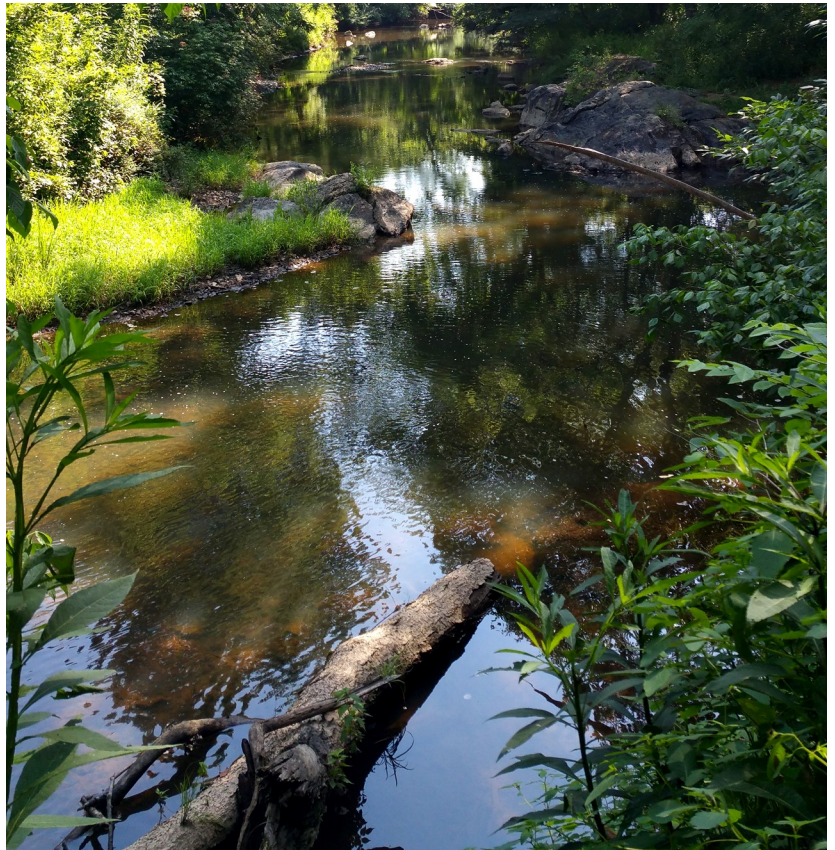
In fact, ask all your fishing friends to follow these steps and we will all have better fishing!



# Ten Steps to Better Fishing

By reducing stormwater runoff pollution, you can help yourself to better fishing. Try these steps!

1. Dispose of trash properly.
2. Don't dump anything down storm drains.
3. Compost yard waste.
4. Don't overfertilize.
5. Pick up pet waste.
6. Avoid using pesticides.
7. Vegetate bare spots.
8. Plant trees along streams.
9. Install a rain garden.
10. Get involved. Be the solution to pollution.



Eno River along Hillsborough's Riverwalk



Redbreast sunfish, caught and released from the Eno River  
Photographs by T. Hackett

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