

# CLEAN BUSINESS IN A WATERSHED



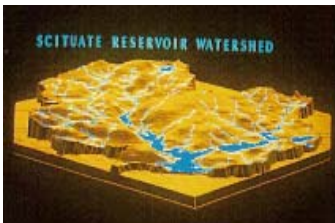
## The Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program

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### Passing On Clean Water

Northern RI  
Conservation District  
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Greenville, RI 02828  
(phone) 401-949-1480  
[www.landwaterconnection.org](http://www.landwaterconnection.org)

Providence Water  
552 Academy Avenue  
Providence, RI 02908  
(phone) 401-521-6300  
[www.provwater.com](http://www.provwater.com)



Above is a 3-D image of the Scituate Reservoir Watershed.

Portions of Foster, Gloucester, Johnston and Scituate comprise this land area.

The Scituate Reservoir, lying in the lowest part of this land area, catches all water flowing over this watershed.

The Scituate Reservoir is a major source of drinking water in Rhode Island.

### Contents:

March Issue, *Volume 9*: What is stormwater?

This Issue, *Volume 10*: Sugrue Engineering, Northland Seamless Gutters and Scituate Animal Hospital demonstrate how to actively minimize stormwater in Scituate Village

Fall, *Volume 11*: Famous Pizza, Famous Ice Cream and Bentley's Tavern demonstrate how to actively minimize stormwater in Scituate Village

## Are profits being washed away?

Just as the relationship between your business and your consumers directly translates into profit, the relationship between human activities on the land and our water resources directly translates into profit or deficits for our drinking water environment.

In Volume 9 of Clean Business, you learned that stormwater is one way that pollutants find their way into water bodies faster and in larger quantities.

**Stormwater is the portion of rainfall that does not infiltrate into the soil. It refers to rainwater & snowmelt, as well as water from washing cars or over watering lawns. Stormwater washes down storm drains on the curbs of roads and leads directly into lakes, rivers, and streams in an untreated state.**

### Two avenues for minimizing stormwater :

1. Focusing on the amounts of stormwater created  
> *finding alternatives to impervious surfaces*
2. Focusing on the pollutants loading into the stormwater  
> *minimizing non-point source pollution*

### Towns & Businesses Take Action

There are measures that can be taken by towns and cities to control impacts of development, thus reducing the effects of stormwater in new developments and maintained developments. In 2006 the Northern RI Conservation District

began a project aimed at identifying intense areas of stormwater runoff in the Village of North Scituate. After conducting area surveys, a site located on the South East corner of Hartford and Greenville Pikes was chosen for remediation. The stormwater in this area is channeled to Regulating Reservoir, a high priority for protection.

Nine businesses and residents were contacted and offered an opportunity to participate in an outreach program designed to educate the North Scituate Community about the threats of untreated stormwater to water quality and about ways they can aid in decreasing the levels of contaminants in stormwater. Six businesses agreed to participate. In this issue, you will read about 3 of those businesses and techniques they are implementing to minimize stormwater. [The full story can be viewed on the NRICD website, at [www.nricd.org/landwaterconnection/stormwater.htm](http://www.nricd.org/landwaterconnection/stormwater.htm) ]

## Businesses profit by actively engaging techniques to minimize stormwater

### **Sugrue Engineering** <> 72 Hartford Pike, North Scituate

Sugrue Engineering is implementing Healthy Landscape Practices on their lawn for demonstration to the community. Business owner, Michael Sugrue, is currently renovating the business site; installing a new well and properly sealing off the old well. They will improve the final grading and landscaping around the new well to protect the well head area from runoff and attracting ground-dwelling critters that could damage or pollute the well. A grass swale at the edge of the property will direct stormwater from the barn roof and other impervious surfaces to a location in the back of the property that will provide proper filtering and storage of the runoff. Mr. Sugrue now uses a rain gauge to ensure proper watering of the lawn, and uses proper amounts of fertilizer and pesticide (avoiding well head and grass swale areas) for the property. Mike will also install an enhanced treatment septic system which NRICD will use as a demonstration point.

#### ***What are healthy landscape techniques?***

Healthy landscape techniques are basic things a property owner can implement in order to ensure clean water while minimizing stormwater. A full listing of healthy landscape techniques can be viewed on URI Cooperative Extension's website: [www.healthylandscapes.org](http://www.healthylandscapes.org).

Sugrue Engineering is currently implementing the following techniques:

- > Using a rain gauge to ensure proper watering of the lawn
- > Applying proper amount of fertilizer and pesticide for lawn size and condition--avoiding well head and swale area
- > Reducing stormwater runoff from the property by increasing infiltration

#### ***How will implementing Healthy Landscape Techniques profit my business?***

- > *Save Money* by using money only when and where it's needed

### **Northland Seamless Gutters** <> Hartford Pike, North Scituate



Northland Seamless Gutters is displaying rain barrels for water conservation on their property, as well as providing customers with information on rain barrels and rain gardens.

#### ***What is a rain barrel?***

A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop to use later for things like lawn and garden watering. Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago in Thailand, and throughout other areas of the world after that. Rain barrels are a logical system for collecting water that would normally flow through your downspout, onto a paved surface, and eventually into a storm drain.

#### ***How will a rain barrel profit my business?***

- > *Save Money!* Lower your water costs, saving approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months with one barrel.
- > Continue watering your business lawns and gardens without affecting the well water levels.
- > Barrels are easy to build and install.
- > Reduce water pollution to your well or nearby waterbody by reducing stormwater runoff, including sediment, oil, grease, bacteria and nutrients.
- > Model and encourage your community to collect rainwater.

### **Scituate Animal Hospital** <> 561 West Greenville Road, North Scituate



Veterinarian office of Sharon O'Neil is displaying a poop scooping station for pets, while distributing literature on the importance of pet waste clean up and well water testing for protection of health in human and pet populations. (Well testing display materials were provided by URI Cooperative Extension Home\*a\*Syst Program).

#### ***How will picking up animal waste profit my business?***

Waste from pets, wildlife and agriculture cumulatively can have a negative impact on water quality because animal waste sits on the ground and can be either washed away with stormwater runoff into water bodies or saturate down into the ground water. Depending on the location of wells, streams, lakes and ponds this waste can be a potential threat to drinking water. Consider the fact that the number of registered dogs alone located in the towns of Scituate, Foster and Gloucester was 1,882 for the year 2004. Setting up a poop scooping station at your business may draw more customers, while providing a convenient location for pet owners to responsibly care for your grounds and their pets.