

BOROUGH OF MANTOLOKING'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

Living on a barrier peninsula, we have a responsibility to safe guard our environment. Our sandy soil is porous and is less suited to filtering out pollutants than inland soil. This coupled with our location between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay places us in a position to have a real impact upon our waterways and environment as a whole.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF OF POLLUTANTS

Only Rain in the Drain! Drizzling or pounding rain on impervious land cover mixes with what's on the ground and flows through our storm drains directly into the Barnegat Bay. Rainwater, that is allowed to permeate into the soil, is cleaned via physical, chemical and biological processes, thus stripping it of harmful contaminants before it hits our waterways.

Wondering why there has been an increase in stinging bay nettle jellyfish over the last 10 to 15 years? The increase in nutrients flowing into the Bay in turn cause an increase growth of algae which consumes oxygen. The increase in algae and structures on the water (e.g., bulkheads & docks) block sunlight from underwater plants. Jellyfish tolerate this low oxygen environment while their predators die off. This allows the population to grow unchecked.

SCOOP THE POOP **It's the Law.** Dog fecal matter is a major contributor to stormwater pollution. When left uncollected, harmful bacteria and nutrients flow into local waterways causing harm to both pets and people. There are courtesy bags available at our beach entrances located on the garbage receptacles and at the Patty Brand Memorial Garden on Bergen Avenue.

USE NATIVE PLANTS **They thrive in our local climate and soil.** The benefits are numerous: They require fewer to no pesticides because they have natural defenses to plant diseases, harmful insects, and other pests. They require less water and no fertilizer; they provide shelter and food for wildlife, and support pollinators. Place native plants around the perimeter of your property. Deep rooted plants control the runoff and capture excess nutrients prior to flowing into the Bay.

Go to Jerseyyards.org for a comprehensive list of native plants appropriate for barrier peninsulas in New Jersey.



BE A SMART POOL OWNER

If you currently own a pool or see one in your future, realize that their size and maintenance affect the environment around you. Minimize the square footage. The larger your pool, the less soil is available to filter contaminants from the rainwater.

Don't drain pool water into storm drains as it will then flow directly into the Bay.

If draining your pool, hire a pool draining service to perform this function safely. In addition to doing the right thing for the environment, these specialists know how to remediate structural integrity issues resulting from the loss of the water weight.

When backwashing your pool, drain water into an area of your yard covered with stones. This gives the soil an opportunity to filter any harmful chemicals prior to the water entering the watershed.

TURN OFF YOUR EXTERIOR LIGHTS

Excessive outdoor light at night poses a threat to nocturnal wildlife, contributes to energy wastage, and obscures the stars in the night sky. While we all have a desire to secure our homes, **exterior lighting whose illumination is greater than 0.5 footcandles** (lumens per square foot) measured at the property line at grade or at any higher elevation, is **prohibited by Mantoloking's Light Ordinance**. *Let's all do our part to return our skies to the night. It's the law!*



See darksky.org for more information

To minimize the effects of light pollution:

- ▶ Lighting should only be on when needed; use motion detectors
- ▶ Only light the area that needs it
- ▶ Lighting should be no brighter than necessary
- ▶ **Minimize blue light emissions** by using LED light fixtures with color temperature of no more than 3000 Kelvins
- ▶ Eliminate upward-directed light



RECYCLE

The benefits of recycling are myriad! It reduces waste sent to landfills and incinerators, conserves natural resources and overall, is easy to do. Ocean County's state of the art recycling facilities enable recycling of:

- ▶ **Plastics** Labeled 1, 2, or 5,
- ▶ **Clean Dried Glass and Metal**
- ▶ **Paper and Flattened Cardboard**

Scan Here For
A Complete
Guide to
Recycling.



JUST REMEMBER...IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.

Still confused as to what can and can't be recycled?

Use Recycle Coach - a FREE app which has been customized for Mantoloking's use. Download the app to your iphone or to your android device to get started today.



Does Amazon's Alexa reside in your home?
Ask her, "Alexa, what is my sustainability tip of the day?"

UTILIZE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE SITE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF YOUR HOME:



MINIMIZE IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

New homes in Mantoloking are becoming increasingly larger and closer together, thus further reducing the amount of surface area that can absorb rainwater.

According to Mantoloking's Land Use Laws, the total impervious coverage for all lots in all zones is 45%. This includes buildings, structures, areas under roofs, awnings or eaves, decks, swimming pools, and impervious landscaping.

When designing your home:

- ▶ In lieu of using impervious surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, bricks, pavers, or similar materials which will impede or limit the penetration of water to the substrata, consider using gravel, crushed stone, grasses, or other vegetation. Even pavers set in sand or fine stone (calculated at 80% for lot coverage purposes) are better than outright impenetrable surfaces.
- ▶ While lawns are permeable, they utilize a great deal of water and fertilizer to keep looking their best. Consider gravel or some other form of pervious surface in your landscape.
- ▶ Include decks, pools, and generators early in your planning. This will avoid having to apply for variances later and ensure that your impervious lot coverage is consistent with Mantoloking's ordinances.

INSTALL A RAIN BARREL

Rain barrels are a great way to capture roof runoff and ultimately reduce the amount of water that flows off of your property. This water can then in turn be used to water your lawn and gardens, wash your car, or clean outdoor items. They can be purchased for less than \$200 and typically contain anywhere from 40 to 60 gallons of water.

INCLUDE A RAIN GARDEN IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

Utilizing native deep-rooted perennial plants, trees, and shrubs allows water to drain more deeply into soil.

Go to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension for a helpful guide for planning, installing, and maintaining a rain garden on your property.



INCLUDE A GREEN ROOF IN YOUR HOME DESIGN

Vegetation planted over a waterproofing membrane captures rainwater and returns it to the atmosphere through transpiration and evaporation. While green roofs require greater structural support than traditional roofs and are therefore more expensive, they can be very effective at retaining partial or full roof runoff.

For more info on Green Roofs, go to the NJ Green Building Manual, created by the Rutgers Center for Green Building.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS, VISIT:
<https://www.mantoloking.org/environmental-commission>

USE LESS FERTILIZER

Overuse of fertilizer impacts the Barnegat Bay ecosystem. When it rains, these chemicals flow into the Bay allowing for a buildup of nitrogen which in turn is responsible for an abundance of algae.

USE INSECTICIDE ALTERNATIVES

- There are many insect repelling plants that can be planted in pots or in the ground where you spend your time outdoors. Some examples are citronella grasses, catnip, rosemary, basil, scented geraniums, bee balm, mint, floss flower, sage, and allium.
- Lavender not only deters mosquitoes but also rabbits.
- Marigolds keep mosquitoes and rabbits at bay and also help keep other plant pests such as aphids, thrips, Mexican bean beetles, squash bugs, and tomato hornworms away.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WEED KILLER RECIPE:

Mix together in a spray bottle or applicator:

- **1 gallon white vinegar** (at least 5% acetic acid)
- **1 oz. dish soap**
- **1 cup table salt or Epsom salt** (include this ingredient **ONLY** if spreading on areas where you want nothing else to grow such as driveways or sidewalks)



Apply on a sunny day with no wind. Great for using around pavers & terraces but remember, it's non-selective & can damage your desirable plants.

REMEMBER: Whatever you place on the ground – deicers, fertilizers, pesticides, dog waste – eventually will make it into our waterways.

MULCH YOUR GRASS

 Leave grass clippings on your lawn.

Mulched grass acts as a natural fertilizer. The same nitrogen that's bad for the Bay makes an ideal fertilizer for your lawn. Don't allow your grass clippings to either flow into the Bay – they contain nitrogen which contributes to algae – or end up in landfills where they will break down and release methane.

MOW LESS OFTEN AND WITH AN ELECTRIC MOWER

Decreased frequency of mowing will allow deeper root systems to form and if using an electric mower, decreases the number of pollutants (inclusive of carbon dioxide, the most common human caused greenhouse gas) that's released into the atmosphere.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

Converting your food scraps and other organic waste into nutrient-rich soil has a number of environmental benefits which include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing soil fertility and its ability to retain water, and reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers. **Go to the EPA's Guide for Composting at Home.**



HOW'S MY WATERWAY?

Scan here for the EPA tool designed for the general public to view the conditions of their local waterways.



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