What you can do...

You too can take important steps

to help conserve water and prevent pollution. Here are some simple tips brought to you by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):

- Take short showers and save 5 to 7 gallons per minute.
- Fill the tub halfway and save 10 to 15 gallons.
- Install water-saving toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators. Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank if you can't switch to a low flow toilet.
- Always promptly repair leaky faucets and turn taps off tightly. A slow drip wastes 15 to 20 gallons each day.
- Only run dishwashers and washing machines when full. Save even more by using the short cycle.
- Outdoors, use a self-closing nozzle on your hose.
- Fix running toilets immediately! Toilet leaks means hundreds of gallons a day down the drain.

For more information on steps you can take at home or work see the DEP's website at: www.nyc.gov/dep

The Water Resources Group, a coalition of NYC greening and community garden groups, is installing rainwater harvesting systems in gardens across the city to conserve water and prevent pollution. To learn more about the WRG contact us at:

GreenThumb
212.788.8070 www.greenthumbnyc.org

Brooklyn GreenBridge
718.623.7209 www.bbg.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension
212.340.2974
www.cce.cornell.edu/nyc/

GrowNYC
212-788-7927 www.grownyc.org

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
212. 595.6656 www.nyc.gov/html/dep

East New York Farms!
718.649.7979 x14
www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/enyfarms

Green Guerillas
212.594.2155 www.greenguerillas.org

New York Restoration Project
212.333.2552 www.nyrp.org

NYC Soil & Water Conservation District
212.637.3877 www.nycswcd.net

Trust for Public Land
212.677.7171 x245 www.tpl.org

Or...talk to your local community gardeners. They are valuable community resources. For more information on stormwater management check out these websites:

www.epa.gov/nps
www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
www.nrdc.org/water
www.state.ny.us/website/dow

This Garden Harvests Rainwater

Rainwater harvesting is the ancient practice of catching and holding rain for later use.

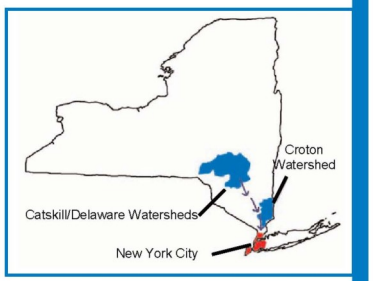
At community gardens like this one, rain is gathered from the rooftop of an adjacent building and stored in tanks in the garden. This helps reduce both the demand on the city's upstate fresh water supply and pollution in our local waterways.

This Garden Conserves its Water

Even when the city is not experiencing a drought, it's important to remember that freshwater is rare.

Only 3% of the world's water is fresh, or drinkable. Pollution further limits this resource. Over 1 billion people globally do not have access to good drinking water.

NYC'S WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

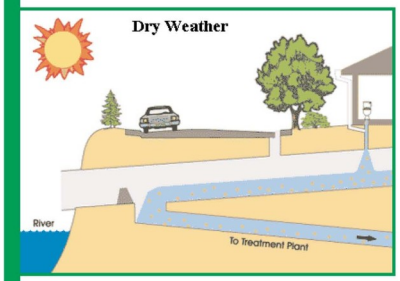


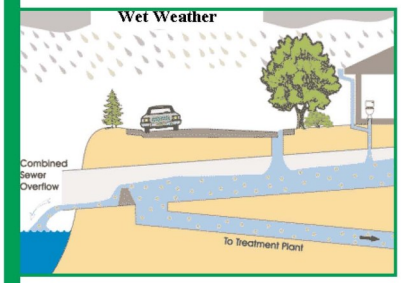
Every day NYC uses 1.3 billion gallons of water from upstate reservoirs. When we waste water, we deplete these reservoirs

...and Helps to Prevent Pollution

By harvesting rainwater, this garden helps prevent pollution during heavy rains.

Here's why...

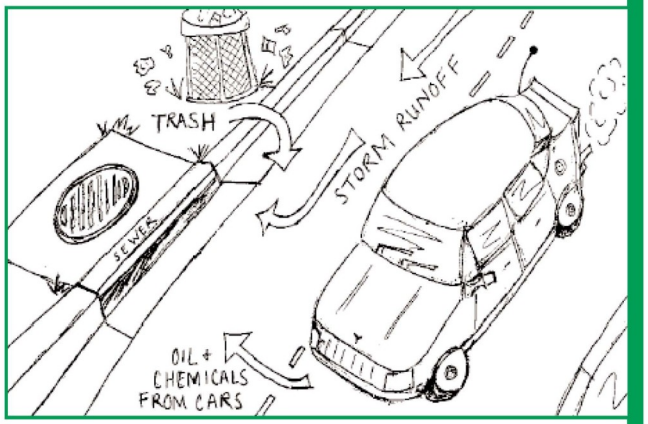




COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS

In New York City, a combined sewer system uses the same pipes to transport both household waste and stormwater to sewage treatment plants.

During heavy rains, the sewer system is overloaded and untreated sewage overflows into rivers and estuaries. By reducing the amount of rainwater entering the sewer system, we limit the environmental damage from combined sewer overflows.



NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

In the wilderness, rainwater is absorbed by the land. But in New York City most rainwater goes into the nearest storm drain. As stormwater runs across the pavement, it picks up contaminants like oil, grease, animal waste, chemicals and trash. This polluted runoff then flows into the nearest waterbody. This pollution, which does not come from any specific source, is known as nonpoint source pollution