

Office of Assemblymember Sean Ryan, 149th Assembly District

PROTECT WOODLAWN BEACH

The quality of Woodlawn Beach affects park use and safety, regional property values, and the environmental footprint of Western New York. Thousands of families visit Woodlawn each year. They enjoy the guarded ecosystem, stunning views, and sandy lakefront. A clean beach attracts tourists and makes the area a better place to live for all Hamburg residents.

Unfortunately, Woodlawn Beach has experienced environmental challenges. It closes due to high bacterial levels more frequently than any other beach in the Beach system. And in 2012, Woodlawn contained the 3rd highest percent (32%) of samples exceeding New York State's

maximum daily bacterial standards. Urban and storm water runoff, contaminated drainage, and natural debris harm the beach every year.

Each household can make a difference. If we take a few simple steps to manage our yards, water use, and pollutants with care, we can sustain the lakeshore and region for generations to come. In addition to the following steps, please contact the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning to learn about proper recycling methods and upcoming waste collection events; they can be reached by phone at 716-858-8390 or you can visit their website at www2.erie.gov/environment.

Six Simple Actions for Preserving Woodlawn Beach

1 Conserve Water Indoors and Out:

- Turn off faucets while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Only run dishwasher when full.
- Install high-efficiency dishwashers, toilets, and washing machines.
- Spread mulch to preserve water and naturally fertilize plants.
- Use garden or yard sprinklers during the morning or evening to reduce evaporation.



2 Safely Dispose of Drugs and Cosmetics:

- Drugs and cosmetics can pass through sewer systems into local waterways and the lake. This affects the safety of Woodlawn Beach and local drinking water.
- When possible, dispose of your cosmetics and medications at waste collection events. Otherwise, dispose of substances in the garbage rather than sinks or toilets. Mix unwanted drugs with water and another household waste, such as coffee grounds, dirt, or cat litter, seal in a bag, and dispose of in the garbage near trash collection day.
- Cosmetics and some pharmaceuticals contain microbeads, tiny plastic beads used as a cleansing agent. The substance can pass through the sewer system and be a significant pollutant at Woodlawn and nearby water ways. Any bottles that list polystyrene (PS) or polyethylene (PE), including some toothpaste, contain microbeads and should be disposed of in the garbage, not the sink or toilet.
- See the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning contact above for upcoming collection events.

3 Reduce Household Hazardous Waste:

- Purchase non-toxic and biodegradable cleaners, solvents, and solutions.
- Minimize use of hazardous substances, including oil, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, cleaners, batteries, computers, and cellular phones.
- Follow proper recycling methods and dispose of hazardous substances at waste collection events.
- See the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning contact above for upcoming collection events.

4 Use Safe Lawn Care & Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer:

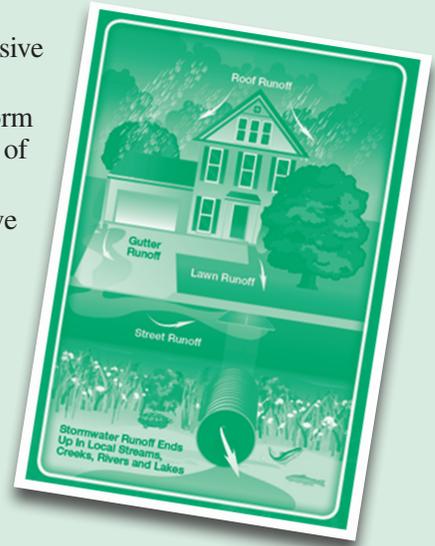
- Avoid using phosphorus-containing fertilizers and do not spread fertilizer before a storm. Phosphorous is a nutrient found naturally in ecosystems. Although low levels of the element are good for plant growth, small increases can have devastating consequences for the natural habitat. When households use fertilizers with phosphorous, the substance

runs to waterways and eventually Woodlawn Park. This breeds excessive algae, reducing the beach water quality, and inhibits water activities.

- Prevent lawn clippings, pet waste, and leaves from gathering near storm drains or streams; they can contaminate waterways with high levels of phosphorus.
- Mow your grass between 2.5-3 inches in height to prevent excessive clippings and improve the health of your lawn.

5 Clean Up After Pets:

- When pet waste is improperly disposed of, it can be picked up by stormwater runoff, where parasites and bacteria can contaminate nearby bodies of water.”
- Clean up pet waste in public places and at home. Dispose of by flushing or sealing in a plastic bag in the trash.



Assemblyman

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6 Create a Rain Garden:

- Rain gardens are located in land depressions and collect rainwater to prevent storm water runoff. They work best when planted near a downspout or clear runoff source and at least 10 feet from your house.
- They reduce area flooding and improve drainage by capturing runoff from your roof and driveway, where habitats are then formed for local birds and butterflies. Rain gardens form habitats for local birds and butterflies, and become a beautiful addition to any yard.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER SEAN RYAN

For more information on this or any other state or local issue, contact the office of Assemblymember Sean Ryan by phone at 716-885-9630 or by mail: 936 Delaware Avenue, Suite 005, Buffalo, NY 14209

