

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT JAMAICA BAY

10 Simple Tips

1. Conserve water in your household

When you reduce the amount of water going down the drain in your house or flowing into our storm sewers, you increase the capacity of sewage treatment plants. You may help reduce sewer overflow events, which discharge untreated sewage and wastewater directly into Jamaica Bay when treatment plants are overcapacity – especially during rain events. So, start conserving water in your household and fix leaky faucets and pipes, install low-flow shower heads and water-saving toilets and visit the NYC DEP's Web site at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/dodont.html> for more water saving tips.

2. Don't use nitrogen-rich fertilizers on your lawn or garden

Fertilizers from your lawn can make their way into storm drains and groundwater, eventually traveling into Jamaica Bay. Excess nitrogen can be harmful to Jamaica Bay and may be contributing to marsh loss. Nitrogen can also cause hypoxic or anoxic events (i.e. low or no oxygen in the water column) in the bay that can be harmful to many benthic and fish species.

3. Plant a tree

Increasing plant cover and reducing impervious surfaces (e.g. blacktop) can help reduce the amount of water that reaches the bay and reduce the severity of sewer overflow events.

4. Do not plant non-native species

Invasive or non-native plants can out-compete native species, as they do not have natural predators. Planting invasive species can lead to a lack of biodiversity and change the area's unique makeup.

5. Don't litter

Anything that ends up in our storm drains or sewers has the potential to end up in our waterways. When it rains, litter in the street washes into these storm drains – so don't litter!

6. Don't pour harmful chemicals or elements (e.g. mercury powder), strong detergents, or oils down your sink or storm drains

Remember – it can all end up polluting the bay!

7. Participate in local beach or park clean-ups

8. Visit Jamaica Bay and learn about the bay's important ecology and biology

Find out more about the bay at http://www.nps.gov/gate/jbu/jbu_home.htm.

9. Make your voice heard!

Contact your local, state and federally elected officials and ask them to increase Jamaica Bay funding and continue to fund restoration projects.

10. Get involved!

Send in your comments and feedback on the Advisory Committee's recommendations for Jamaica Bay.