



Storm Water Report

...by Hwy. Supt. Don Sroka

New York State enjoys an abundance of clean, fresh water that serves as a basis for recreation, tourism, agriculture, fishing and manufacturing. Our streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters provide habitat for a wide array of aquatic plants and animals. Even those that don't live in the water depend on it, just as we do. Indeed, our quality of life and even our economy rely heavily on clean waters.

Precipitation — The Source of Our Water Bodies.

Average precipitation in NYS: 90 billion gallons per day or 40 inches per year. Of this, one-half is returned to the air by evapo-transpiration from land and water. Approximately 27 to 31 billion gal./day run off into surface waters and eventually out to sea. 14 to 18 billion gal./day seep into and recharge the groundwater supply.

Where is the Water? Number of major drainage basins: 17; rivers and streams: 52,337 miles; Great Lakes shoreline: 577 miles; number of lakes (not including Great Lakes), ponds, reservoirs: 7,849 (790,782 acres). volume of surface waters: 22,164 billion gallons; Atlantic shoreline: 117.5 miles; estuaries, bays, harbors (includes NYS portion of L.I. Sound): 1,530 sq. miles; freshwater wetlands: 2.4 million acres; tidal wetlands: 25,000 acres; Long Island aquifers underlie about 3% of NYS; principal aquifers underlie 11.2% of NYS. Principal aquifers are

productive formations not intensively used at present for municipal water supply; eighteen primary water supply aquifers underlie about 4% of upstate NY. A primary aquifer is an underground soil or rock formation that yields enough water to be used as a major municipal water supply.

How the Water Program Works to Keep NY's Waters Clean:

The Division of Water protects water quality in lakes, rivers, aquifers and coastal areas by regulating wastewater discharges, monitoring water quality and controlling surface runoff. Water programs ensure adequate water quantity for public water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses, and reduce impacts from flooding, dam failure, and beach erosion. The Division works with partners and communities to promote water stewardship and education. NYS is authorized by the federal government to administer the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, which regulates discharges to water resources. In addition, the Division of Water works to curb non-point sources of pollution and accomplish other clean water goals through its partnerships with other state agencies, educational and research institutions, and regional planning and watershed associations, committing several million dollars annually. The Water program also administers the Water Quality Improvement Project funding program that has committed a total of about \$396 million to projects implemented where they will do the most good—wastewater treatment, stormwater management program implementation, non-point source abatement, and aquatic habitat restoration.