

Non-point source pollution is pollution discharged over a wide land area not from one specific location. It is a diffuse pollution caused by sediment nutrients and organic and toxic substances originating from land-use activities which are carried to storm drains and canals and ultimately into lakes, bayous and coastal wetlands by surface runoff. Non-point source pollution is contamination that occurs when rainwater washes off city streets or suburban backyards. As this runoff moves across the land surface it picks up soil particles and pollutants such as nutrients, sediments, pesticides and oil. Non-point source pollution is one of the major contributors of pollution in Lake Pontchartrain.

Some examples of non-point source pollution in Orleans Parish include:

- Wear and tear and fluid leakage from automobiles
- Bacteria from pet wastes and faulty sewers
- Solids from leaves and grass clippings
- Nutrients from the excessive use of fertilizers and toxics from the excessive use of herbicides and insecticides
- Oil grease and toxic chemicals such as paint and gasoline from illegal dumping
- Sediments from improperly managed construction sites.

Here is a link to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Non-point source pollution information.

<http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov/wqa/default.htm>