

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In December of 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expanded their National Pollution Elimination System (NPDES – Phase II) to include urban areas of populations of under 100,000 people. The Town of Holliston falls into this category and was required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) describing how the Town would prepare to follow the requirements of this program. This NOI was filed, a stormwater management group was formed and the Town was issued a permit from the EPA in September of 2003.

What is stormwater management?

The purpose of the stormwater management program is to improve water quality in the rivers, lakes and ponds in the Commonwealth. Stormwater discharge occurs as rain or snow that falls soaks into the ground to become groundwater. This is the primary source for vernal pools, wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers and reservoirs. Stormwater also becomes a transportation system for pollutants. The Town has begun mitigation measures to improve removal of pollutants from paved surfaces (roads) throughout the Town. Some of these measures include street sweeping, basin cleaning and tracking water outfalls. The Conservation Associates have also undertaken a river, pond, and wetlands cleanup project.

What can you do?

Erosion - Monitor erosion on your property especially if you are near wetlands or an environmentally sensitive area. Bushes and trees help with the slower movement of water off of your property.

Hazardous Waste – Attend hazardous waste days to dispose of materials. Return used motor oil and car batteries to their place of purchase.

Outside water use – Use care when washing cars, driveways, etc and use products that are friendly to the environment. All water that leaves your property via your driveway ends up in the street and headed to the street drains.

Septic management – Keep your septic system running smoothly by routinely pumping out your system.

Abide by the pooper scooper by-law by cleaning up after your dog. Animal wastes also get carried via rainwater into the groundwater.

Offer to help. Many groups, such as the Conservation Associates are always looking for more volunteers. You can get more information about them by visiting the Town's website at www.townofholliston.us and follow the links to the Conservation Commission and Associates. For more information on stormwater management and the DEP, you can visit their website at www.mass.gov/dep.