



## **Neponset Stormwater Partnership**

### **Annual Progress Report**

**May 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019**

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## **Introduction**

The Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP) is a regional stormwater collaborative which brings together communities in and around the Neponset River Watershed area. NSP members work together to reduce stormwater pollution and streamline compliance with the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (MS4 permit) which is issued jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

This report covers activities completed by the NSP during the period May 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, which spans two different annual work plans for the NSP (the NSP operates on a July to June fiscal year).

This report is generally organized by the six minimum control measures (MCMs) outlined by the MS4 permit, subject to the caveat that some activities do not fit neatly into the framework established by the minimum control measures.

### **Participating Communities and Organizations**

The following communities and other organizations were active members of the NSP during the reporting period:

- Foxborough
- Medfield
- Westwood
- Dedham
- Milton
- Norwood
- Canton
- Quincy
- Stoughton
- Sharon
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

In addition, Avon participated on a limited basis in the activities specifically noted below.

The Neponset River Watershed Association serves as the overall coordinator for the NSP and coordinates or leads the implementation of many of the NSP's priority tasks.

Unless otherwise noted, all participating communities were included in each of the tasks or activities described below.

### **Project Funding**

Funding for the NSP during the reporting period was provided by matching contributions from the participating municipalities, grant funds provided by the MAPC, and other matching grants and donations assembled by NepRWA.

## **Note About Utilizing the NSP Annual Report**

The NSP annual report provides a summary of all the work undertaken by the NSP during the report period. Some of this work, particularly in the areas of Public Education and Public Participation, are directly applicable to our member communities' EPA annual reporting requirements.

In the Public Education and Participation sections of the NSP Annual Report, content has been formatted in a manner consistent with the format of the EPA annual report template. Because the NSP is a regional program, these sections are written from a "regional" perspective rather than "town-by-town" perspective. Where additional details of community-specific efforts are known, we have included these in summary form for those communities that prefer to report on a community-specific basis.

In past communication, EPA has endorsed the concept of a regional Education SWMP, and also a regional Education Annual Report. In other words, if a community is relying on the NSP to meet its Public Education requirements, they do not need to carefully justify community-specific results from the regional implementation activities, provided that the community was actively participating.

Therefore, if a community has incorporated the NSP Regional Outreach and Education SWMP into its own municipal SWMP by reference, they can satisfy the education reporting requirement by referencing the NSP Annual Report by putting the url in their own annual report.

If a community has not adopted the NSP Regional Outreach and Education SWMP by reference, it is welcome to pick and choose among the NSP's completed education activities and add them directly to their own municipal EPA annual report.

Lastly, any number of other NSP activities may be indirectly or partially applicable to a community's MS4 reporting requirements. These activities include areas such as

- Staff training that occurs during NSP meetings and workshops
- Technical assistance on bylaws, green infrastructure or IDDE tools
- Water quality data which may be relevant to IDDE
- Evaluation and construction of stormwater retrofit opportunities

Because these areas do not neatly match the applicable EPA reporting requirements for all NSP communities, they have not been formatted to correspond to the EPA annual report template. Rather, they are simply provided as brief narrative or bullets. However, NSP communities may still want to pick and choose activities in these sections that they would like to use to supplement their EPA annual report.



## **MCM1 Public Education**

Numerous tasks were completed in the area of Public Education and Participation, including finalizing a Regional Public Education and Outreach Program SWMP which NSP communities may incorporate by reference into their own SWMPs. The Regional SWMP (as well as associated annual reports) can be found at: <https://yourcleanwater.org/about/swmp/>.

Samples of outreach materials described below are either linked in the narrative (if available on the internet) or are included in the Appendix at the end of this document.

The NSP's public education work is strongly supported by the communities and individuals that have volunteered to serve on the NSP Public Education Sub-Committee, including: Hillary Waite of Milton, Laura Smead of Canton and Virginia Devine of Dedham.

### **Public Education BMP 1: Maintain Educational Website**

Description: A comprehensive educational website to serve the Neponset Stormwater Partnership service area as a primary resource for key information for all four target audiences. See [yourcleanwater.org](http://yourcleanwater.org)

Target Audience: Residents, Businesses, Industry and Developers

Measurable Goals: Achieve at least unique 500 site visits in the first year. Actual results were 1,266 site visitors and 5,280 page views.

Message Dates: In place on May 1, 2018 and ongoing since

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes (pet waste, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, septic)

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes (pet waste, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, septic)

### **Public Education BMP 2: Operate Stormwater Hotline**

Description: Operate a regional "stormwater hotline" to field questions and problem reports regarding stormwater from across the region. Collect responses via a website form hosted at [yourcleanwater.org](http://yourcleanwater.org), via email submissions to [stormwater@neponset.org](mailto:stormwater@neponset.org), and phone calls to 781-575-0354 x 300. Answer questions, provide additional information or follow up investigation and/or refer inquiries/reports to the appropriate municipalities as appropriate. Maintain anonymity of inquiries as requested.

Target Audience: Residents, Businesses, Industry and Developers

Measurable Goals: Provide immediate answers to inquiries generated by regionalized outreach activities. A total of eight contacts were handled during the first year of the program.

Message Dates: In place on May 1, 2018 and ongoing since

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): n/a

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): n/a

### **Public Education BMP 3: Distribute Pet Waste Information With Dog Licenses**

Description: Print pets waste cards and posters. Distribute to Town Clerks in each participating community and have Clerks insert cards when mailing back completed dog licenses, display posters at the Town Clerk's office where dog license applications are received and/or distribute pet waste cards in person at the Town Clerk's office. All NSP municipalities participated, but some towns are using on-line licensing systems and do not mail back dog licenses, in which case they relied exclusively on posters and in-person handouts. [The following distribution numbers were based on the number of licensed dogs per NSP town. The number of rack cards distributed correlated to the number of dogs licensed per town to ensure all dog owners received the message. Canton (1,600); Dedham (1,400); Foxborough (1,000); Medfield (1,700); Milton (1,500); Quincy (2,000); Sharon (1,000); Stoughton (1,400), and Westwood (1,500)]

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Participation by 100% of Town Clerks in order to reach 80% of dog owners annually with pets waste management information. Over the 5 year permit period achieve a reduction in the number of pet waste bags found when cleaning catch basins in the member communities that track this information. A total of 13,100 cards were printed and distributed to Town Clerks for a population of 16,100 dogs (estimated 81% reached) with 100% participation by clerks.

Message Dates: Materials distributed to Town Clerks in January 2019 and disseminated to dog owners over the next several months.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes

### **BMP 4: Fall Leaf Waste Campaign**

Description: Prepare a social media campaign "Don't Leaf Clean Water to Chance". Distribute the campaign to the Neponset River Watershed Association's Facebook and Twitter Accounts and ask Neponset Stormwater Partnership member communities to re-distribute it to their own facebook and/or twitter followers by sharing the messages. Create a leaf campaign page, and homepage banner at [yourcleanwater.org](http://yourcleanwater.org) to refer audience for more detailed information. Create a town specific leaf campaign flyer for towns upon request, including detailed local information on yard waste disposal options (Stoughton, Westwood, Medfield and Milton) which was printed for distribution at town halls and/or posted on town websites. Prepare text and images for a business-specific version of the leaf campaign with images and text and have the Neponset River Regional Chamber of Commerce and Canton Association of Business and Industry add

this information to their member email newsletter for distribution to more than 500 member businesses.

Target Audience: Residents, Businesses, Industry

Measurable Goals: Participation by 100% of NSP communities, and reaching at least 1,000 people in the NSP region through social media. All NSP communities participated by redistributing one or more of the campaign materials with most communities participating in multiple distribution methods. A total of 2,213 people were reached through Facebook, with an additional 1,031 people reached through Twitter. In addition more than 500 businesses, institutional and industrial land owners were reached directly through communication via business associations in addition to those businesses reached through other means.

Message Dates: October 3, 2019 through October 31.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes

## **Public Education BMP 5: Spring Fertilizer and Grass Clipping Campaign**

Description: Prepare a multi media campaign “Be a Lawn Hero”. Distribute the campaign to the Neponset River Watershed Association’s Facebook and Twitter Accounts and ask Neponset Stormwater Partnership member communities to re-distribute it to their own facebook and/or twitter followers by “sharing the messages. Create a Lawn Hero campaign page and homepage banner at [yourcleanwater.org](http://yourcleanwater.org) to refer audience for more detailed information. Create a ‘Be a Lawn Hero’ poster in two different sizes (8.5” x 11” and 8.5” x 14”) for flexibility for potential bill stuffing or poster hanging) as well as a Lawn Hero rack card/bill stuffer (3” x 8.5”). NSP communities throughout the service area installed the posters in conspicuous locations in town halls or libraries throughout the NSP service area and in some cases reproduced the rack cards as handouts. In addition the poster and/or rack card was reproduced and distributed as a bill stuffer in several communities (Milton and Quincy, 39,000 households). A number of communities utilized the social media post and/or poster to create major features on their town website homepages (Sharon, Foxborough, Norwood, Dedham) distributed it through town email newsletters (Medfield), or ran it as a print ad in the local newspaper (Canton Citizen 3,160 subscribers).

Town Specific Details:

- Sharon: Added the campaign photo and the [yourcleanwater.org/lawn](http://yourcleanwater.org/lawn) link to the main page of the Town of Sharon website; Posted the campaign on both Twitter and Facebook, distributed the poster and rack card at Municipal buildings.
- Canton: Ran the campaign poster in the Canton Citizen as well as the E-Citizen (reaching 3,160 Canton Households); Circulated the via e-blast to the Canton Association of Business & Industry and Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce; Posted the campaign on both Twitter and Facebook, as well as through the Town’s Planning

Board Facebook, Everything Canton, and Canton Bulletin Board Facebook pages.  
Distributed the poster and rack card at Municipal buildings.

- Norwood: Added the campaign photo and the [yourcleanwater.org/lawn](http://yourcleanwater.org/lawn) link to the main page of the Town of Norwood website; Posted the campaign on both Norwood Town Twitter and Facebook; added the fertilizer poster to the e-newsletter (Neponset River Regional Chamber email chain).
- Westwood: Posted the campaign on both Westwood Town Twitter and Facebook
- Dedham: Posted the campaign on the DPW Facebook, Green Dedham Facebook, and Dedham Trails Facebook and Twitter accounts with the recommended hashtags.
- Foxborough: Posted the 8.5" x 11" poster on the Foxborough Facebook Page; Added the campaign photo and the [yourcleanwater.org/lawn](http://yourcleanwater.org/lawn) link to the main page of the Town of Foxborough website; Printed and distributed the 3" x 8.5" rack card at the information desk at the Town Administrative Office.
- Medfield: Created a 'Newsflash' on the DPW Main Website which was also texted to any resident signed up for notifications from the DPW; printed and distributed the posters and rack cards at the Town Hall and DPW; Posted the campaign on Medfield Town Facebook and Twitter.
- Milton: Utilized the rack card and inserted into water bills that will reach approximately 9,000 Milton residents; distributed poster in Town offices that receive traffic such as Treasurer, Library, and the Senior Center; shared the Twitter post on the Milton Town Twitter (Milton does not have a facebook)
- Quincy: Utilized the 8.5" x 11" poster and inserted into water bills that will reach approximately 30,000 Quincy residents; shared the social media post on facebook, twitter, and [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com), Organized the flyer to be distributed in press release format; and added the flyer as a spot on Quincy Public Television.
- Stoughton: Printed and distributed the rack cards at Library, Town Hall, and the Council on Aging/Youth Commission; shared the social media post on Stoughton Town Twitter and Facebook Pages;

Target Audience: Residents, Businesses, Industry

Measurable Goals: Participation by 100% of NSP communities, and reach at least 1,000 people in the NSP region through social media. All NSP communities participated by redistributing one or more of the campaign materials with most communities participating in multiple distribution methods. A total of 7,995 people were reached through Facebook, with an additional 3,421 people reached through Twitter. In addition more than 500 businesses, institutional and industrial land owners were reached directly through communication via business associations in addition to those businesses reached through other means.

Message Dates: April 11, 2019 through April 30.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes

## **Public Education BMP 6: School Outreach Program**

Description: Prepare a hands on watershed education curriculum for 4th or 5th grade students. Curriculum discusses water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, where water comes from and goes to, water conservation techniques, and stormwater pollution prevention techniques, and incorporates slides, video and hands on activities. Curriculum is designed and adapted with input from teachers in participating schools and aligned with science curriculum frameworks. The program is delivered at the individual classroom level over the course of one (Quincy) or two (Foxborough, Milton, Canton, Sharon, Stoughton, Dedham and Westwood), 60 minute visits by a watershed educator. The educator also provides students with a water use / pollution prevention checklist and summary of the program for students to take home and review with their families. In addition to the elementary program a limited number of high school level programs were conducted in Sharon and Canton, wherein the watershed educator visited several times with art or media classes to educate them about stormwater and engage them in creating original artwork or outreach materials of their own design that are then shared with the community. Sharon students painted multiple murals around the town storm drains with “no dumping” types of messages and Canton students designed, built, and painted rain barrels for auction.

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Reach at least 80% of households with children in participating communities, and 100% positive feedback from participating classroom teachers.

During the 2018-2019 school year a total of 95 classrooms were visited once and 72 classrooms were visited twice, representing 75% of total 4th or 5th grade classrooms in the participating communities and an estimated 2,000 families.

Message Dates: September 2018 through June 2019 (school year).

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): n/a

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): n/a

## **Public Education BMP 7: Regional Education Mailing #1**

Description: Prepare a regional educational mailing for participating communities. The mailing was an 9x12 postcard that highlighted general stormwater / storm drain awareness and a project to create storm drain murals by local students. The mailpiece also referenced additional key information on fertilizer and pet waste and referred readers to additional information available at [yourcleanwater.org](http://yourcleanwater.org) and the stormwater hotline. The mailing was distributed to all residential addresses in the participating communities (Canton, Stoughton and Foxborough) totaling approximately 29,000 mailing addresses in all.

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Conduct a pilot project for a regional mailing that reaches 100% of households including those who do not use social media or follow town government communication channels. 100% of households (29,000) in the target area were reached.

Message Dates: Week of July 9, 2018.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes

### **Public Education BMP 8: Regional Education Mailing #2**

Description: Prepare a regional educational mailing for participating communities. The mailing was an 11x17 newsletter, that highlighted general stormwater / storm drain awareness, as well as specific information of fertilizers, lawn care, phosphorous pollution, pet waste management, dumping, and trash-can / dumpster maintenance. The content targeted key messages for both residential, business / institutional and industrial audiences. The mailpiece also referenced additional information available at yourcleanwater.org and the stormwater hotline. The mailing was distributed to all residential and business addresses in the participating communities (Avon, Canton, Dedham, Foxborough, Medfield, Milton, Norwood, Quincy, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood) totaling approximately 75,000 mailing addresses in all. This mailing was completed and sent to the printer in June of 2019, but due to unanticipated printing and postal service delays was not received in homes until the week of July 8, 2019.

Target Audience: Residents, Businesses, Industry

Measurable Goals: Ensure that at least one message reaches 100% of households including those who do not use social media or follow town government communication channels. 100% of households and businesses in the target communities were reached, albeit several weeks later than originally planned.

Message Dates: July 8, 2019.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): yes

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): yes

### **Public Education BMP 9: Think Blue “Duckie” Video #1**

Description: Partner with MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition to secure MassDEP grant funding to distribute original 1990’s vintage “Rubber Duckie” video originally developed by San Diego, through online advertising campaign on Facebook, YouTube.

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Reach a significant portion of the NSP service area population with a stormwater awareness message in a highly engaging format. A total of 106,752 people in the NSP service area were reached via 641,193 Facebook “impressions,” of which 16,682 watched more than 1 seconds of the video. Via YouTube there were 96,873 of whom 78,516 watched 10 seconds or more. Some 866 people clicked through to thinkbluemassachusetts.org from the NSP service area. A more detailed report on campaign impressions is available at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125\\_9f1ae1c584414896b79ae11a6606192a.docx?dn=TOC-TBM-Neponset-Campaign-Report-06252018.docx](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125_9f1ae1c584414896b79ae11a6606192a.docx?dn=TOC-TBM-Neponset-Campaign-Report-06252018.docx). Further analysis of the results can be found in the pre and post campaign online public opinion surveys for the project which are available at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e9082a\\_00cfb11d42564d59a1ce1d37b9f41d98.docx?dn=TOC-TBM-Resident-Survey-Report-04162018](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e9082a_00cfb11d42564d59a1ce1d37b9f41d98.docx?dn=TOC-TBM-Resident-Survey-Report-04162018).

Message Dates: May 31 to June 25, 2018.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): n/a

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): n/a

## **Public Education BMP 10: Think Blue “Duckie” Video #2**

Description: Partner with MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition to secure MassDEP grant funding to update the Think Blue Duckie video for modern screens and to a MA Specific audience. Video focuses on basic stormwater awareness including litter, oil and pet waste. Distribute video through grant-funded online advertising campaign on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Reach a significant portion of the NSP service area population with a stormwater awareness message in a highly engaging format. A total of almost 220,000 “impressions” were achieved on Facebook and/or YouTube in NSP communities during the portion of the advertising campaign that occurred prior to June 30, 2019. Pre and post campaign online public opinion surveys indicated that more than 15% of those surveyed could remember seeing the video and that there was an improvement in the understanding of how stormwater infrastructure works in those who could recall seeing the video. A more detailed report including an estimate of impressions by community is available at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125\\_080970e1017847e78def190f64d6d903.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125_080970e1017847e78def190f64d6d903.pdf) and a summary of the pre and post campaign survey is available at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125\\_247214c5492b49fba96b65ca0b1dc960.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e78125_247214c5492b49fba96b65ca0b1dc960.pdf)

Message Dates: June 24, 2019 through July 5, 2019.

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): n/a

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): n/a

## **Public Education BMP 11: Regional Water Quality Forum**

Description: Organized an evening public presentation on the 2018 water quality data collected in the Neponset River Watershed. The presentation covered the results from the 2018 sampling season and how they fit into the broader context of long term water quality trends in the watershed. The remaining challenges facing various waterways in the Watershed, and actions individuals can take to address those challenges was also covered. Hillary Waite from the Town of Milton presented on the Town's efforts to combat stormwater pollution with green infrastructure and a stormwater utility fee. Event was held at the Canton Public Library, was publicized across the entire NSP service area and drew attendees from numerous communities.

Target Audience: Residents

Measurable Goals: Deliver detailed site specific water quality data to interested residents and local officials in addition to general "how to" information for broader audiences. The meeting was attended by more than 25 people from across the NSP service area.

Message Date: 2/7/2019

Applies to Appendix F (TMDL): n/a

Applies to Appendix H (WQ Limited Waters): n/a

## **MCM 2: Public Participation**

### **General Public Participation Activities**

- Finalized the NSP Model Public Participation SWMP program document template and distributed to NSP communities. Available at: <https://yourcleanwater.org/member-resources/nsp-tools/>
- Provided a representative to participate in the meetings of the Quincy Stormwater Advisory Committee.

### **Public Participation BMP 1: River Clean Up Day**

Organized a volunteer-based river cleanup event with sites in Milton, Quincy, and Canton (and Boston) on April 27, 2019. Approximately 250 volunteers participated and removed an estimated 30 tons of trash and debris from various waterways, parks and wetlands.

### **Public Participation BMP 2: Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Organized a volunteer-based water quality monitoring program with sites in Canton, Foxborough, Milton, Dedham and Westwood located on the Neponset River and/or tributaries of the Neponset River. Approximately 25 volunteers are involved in the program and it is operated under the terms of a DEP / EPA approved QAPP. The results are used to more meaningfully engage members of the public in implementation of the MS4 program, to help better inform municipal IDDE efforts, to help track overall progress in restoring stream health and attaining



designated uses throughout the watershed, and to provide local data that provides meaningful context for public outreach and education programs.

### **Public Participation BMP 3: Regional Water Quality Forum**

Organized an evening public presentation and discussion on 2018 water quality data collected in the Neponset River Watershed and the health and remaining challenges facing various waterways in the Watershed. Event was held at the Canton Public Library, was publicized across the entire NSP service area and drew attendees from numerous communities. The meeting was attended by more than 25 people from across the NSP service area.

## **MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

- Finalized the NSP Model IDDE SWMP / Model IDDE Program Document, and distributed it to NSP communities to adapt as part of their own municipal IDDE programs. Template is available at <https://yourcleanwater.org/member-resources/nsp-tools/>.
- Updated and refined the MAPC Catchment Delineation Tool for for the benefit of NSP communities as well as outside communities.
- Completed or updated catchment delineations for Foxborough, Stoughton, and Canton using the MAPC Catchment Delineation Tool. Other communities were completed in previous years.
- Finalized the NSP IDDE prioritization tool and corresponding documentation in FY18 and further refined it in FY19 based on town feedback. The tool uses the factors outlined in the IDDE section of the MS4 permit, along with local water quality data to to rank, manage and track outfalls throughout the outfall screening and catchment investigation process. A copy of the tool can be found at: <https://yourcleanwater.org/member-resources/nsp-tools/>.
- Used the results of the completed catchment delineations to to extract key GIS attributes for IDDE prioritization for all communities where catchment delineation has been completed and loaded this attribute data into the NSP IDDE Prioritization Tool.
- Distributed the NSP IDDE Prioritization Tool populated with water quality data. Data was compiled by MassDEP stream reach and included results from the Neponset River and its tributaries, along with MassDEP data where applicable for the Charles, Taunton and Fore River Watersheds. Completed in communities that requested the IDDE Tool including Sharon, Dedham, Stoughton and Westwood.
- Held a training workshop on the NSP Model IDDE SWMP and the NSP IDDE Prioritization Tool for attendees at the April 25, 2019 NSP quarterly meeting.
- Held a training workshop on the use of sewer main and lateral slip-lining as an effective means of resolving IDDE challenges on Norwood's Meadow Brook, for attendees at the July 24, 2018 quarterly meeting of the NSP.
- Conducted "hotspot" monitoring in areas of the Neponset River Watershed where water quality data suggested the possibility of contamination from illicit discharges and followed up with affected municipalities regarding any issues of potential concern (funded in part with outside grant funds). Resulting data posted on interactive map at <https://www.neponset.org/projects/hot-spot-program/>.

- Completed a survey of private water quality monitoring labs available to assist with IDDE testing to identify lab capabilities and approximate costs, and made the results available to the NSP members. The survey was circulated to member towns via email.
- Worked with the Town of Dedham to successfully reduce and ultimately resolve an illicit discharge to Mother Brook associated with a privately operated transfer station. The discharge was discovered through the NSP hotspot monitoring program.

## **MCM 4: Construction Erosion and Sediment Control**

- Finalized the Model Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control SWMP Template and distributed to NSP communities.
- Conducted a training and information exchange session on construction site runoff management for attendees at the April 25, 2019 quarterly meeting of the NSP.

## **MCM 5: New Development and Redevelopment**

- Finalized the Model New Development and Redevelopment SWMP Template and distributed to NSP communities.
- Updated the NSP model stormwater bylaw and regulation, distributed to NSP communities for consideration.
- Completed review of existing stormwater bylaws in some member communities to confirm compliance with current and expected MS4 requirements as well as recommended best practices.
- Provided technical assistance to Stoughton on draft bylaw update.
- Provided preliminary technical assistance to a number of communities considering new or updated stormwater bylaws or regulations including: Foxborough and Milton.
- Conducted a training workshop the NSP Model Stormwater Bylaw including offsite mitigation provisions for attendees at the July 25, 2018 and April 25, 2019 quarterly meetings of the NSP.
- NSP and MAPC have previously completed analysis of zoning and other local bylaws in partial fulfillment of the Street Design and Parking Lot Report and Green Infrastructure Report requirements of the permit. For more information on this past analysis please contact the NSP and be aware that the NSP plans to update this information before year four of the MS4 Permit.
- NSP and MAPC have developed tools and conducted field evaluations of potential stormwater retrofit tools toward satisfaction of the Retrofit Property Inventory requirement, and the NSP plans to make sure this requirement is fully satisfied for all communities before year four of the MS4 Permit.

## **MCM 6: Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention**

- Finalized the Model Good Housekeeping and Pollution SWMP Template and distributed to NSP communities.
- Conducted a training Model Good Housekeeping and Pollution SWMP Template for attendees at the April 25, 2019 quarterly meeting of the NSP.

## **Activities Not Corresponding to an MCM**

### **Appendix F and Appendix H**

In addition to other activities indicated above that apply to Appendix F and/or H of the MS4 permit, the NSP completed the following additional tasks:

- NSP and Metropolitan Area Planning Council created an ArcGIS-based BMP prioritization tool to help towns and other users locate, inspect, and track opportunities for the construction of stormwater BMP retrofits and/or off-site stormwater mitigation projects.

It consists of three main components.

- 1) The first prioritizes properties based on soil type, estimated recharge capacity, estimated nutrient pollution load, estimated tss load, AUL site presence, wetland presence, wellhead protection presence, sewer outfall / pipe presence, parcel impervious context, land use, and % impervious. The ranking is dynamic and customizable so that various end users can choose which factors to include and how to weight them based on their priorities. The tool can then output a ranked list of parcels for on the ground inspection.
- 2) The second component is a mobile GIS field sheet that can be used to complete the on the ground inspection. It allows for the user to confirm conditions in the field and identify constraints and opportunities that may not be evident from available GIS data, and to rank the sites based on feasibility of constructing a BMP retrofit on the site.
- 3) The third component of the tool allows the user to export the field inspection data into a single page fact sheet or “catalog page” describing each site.

These tools can be used to provide information about offsite mitigation opportunities for redevelopment projects that are unable to meet the runoff standards. The fact sheets can also be used by the town to identify opportunities to meet their Appendix H and demonstration practice permit obligations.

These tools are presently available for use by desktop GIS users. It will not be possible for ArcGIS Online users to develop their own ranking algorithm, however in the coming year NSP and MAPC intend to develop several “scenario” maps (p loading, n loading,

groundwater recharge, etc) that novice GIS users will be able to take advantage of without desktop GIS software.

- NSP staff also assembled a master GIS database of sites across the NSP service area that have already been evaluated for stormwater retrofit potential by the Watershed Association or others. To date the database reflects 418 field evaluated BMP retrofit opportunities, and so far includes sites in all NSP communities except Quincy.

### **General Coordination and Training**

The activities in this category do not fit neatly into the six MCMs and/or apply to multiple MCMs and so have been aggregated under this heading.

The NSP assembled several fact sheets on interpretations of various aspects of the MS4 permit based on feedback from EPA. These fact sheets can be found at:

<https://yourcleanwater.org/member-resources/nsp-tools/>.

The NSP held four meetings during the reporting period which included training opportunities for staff of the participating communities through guest presentations, staff presentations, inter-municipal information sharing, and discussion. This reporting period included heavy emphasis on the first year requirements of the MS4 permit. The major topics covered during the reporting period included:

- Overview of anticipated EPA enforcement activities and priorities under the MS4 permit
- Discussion of technical support needs by member communities for MS4 permit
- The use of sewer main cleaning and lining for reduction of illicit discharges
- Presentations and resources on stormwater financing and stormwater utilities
- Overview of updated NSP model stormwater bylaw including off-site mitigation provisions
- Overview of NSP SWMP template
- Overview of NSP BMP Retrofit Prioritization Tool
- Implementing erosion and sediment control and post-construction programs
- Member MS4 program priorities for the next two years
- Collaborated to discuss individual municipal stormwater priorities
- Statewide "Think Blue" outreach and education project and other NSP outreach activities
- Meetings also included discussion of NSP work plan items and administrative tasks

The NSP also provided delegates to participate in the meetings of the MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition (Statewide Coalition) during the project period. Work with the Statewide Coalition included:

- Participants on behalf of the NSP included Ian Cooke, NepRWA Executive Director, Deirdre Hall, (former) City of Quincy Stormwater Coordinator, and Hillary Waite, Milton Stormwater Coordinator.
- NSP representatives attended all the quarterly meetings of the Statewide Coalition, were represented as members of the Statewide Education Committee, and served as

Chairmen of the Statewide Advocacy Committee and the Statewide Administration Committee.

- NSP representatives also played key roles in the development of several successful grant applications by the Statewide Coalition including for the statewide Think Blue outreach campaign, and for further development of model stormwater bylaw language regarding off-site stormwater mitigation.

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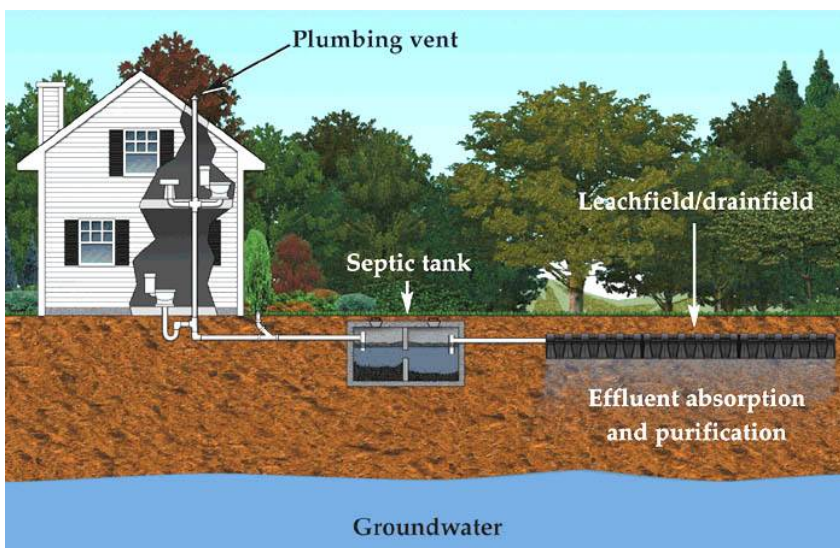
## **Appendix A: Sample Outreach Materials**

## SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

[Home](#) / [Septic System Maintenance](#)

A septic system is your very own on-site sewage treatment facility and is generally trouble free if you understand how it works and follow a few simple rules.

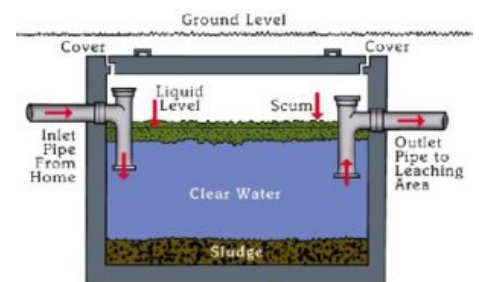
Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterways. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.



*Sewage and grey water from the house flow through sewer pipes into the tank, where bacteria break down raw sewage into sludge and water, and the water continues to flow into a gravel leach field. Bacteria break down the solids in the tank but they need to be pumped out periodically.*

**Follow these tips to maintain a healthy septic system:**

**It's important to maintain your septic system to prevent leaks, avoid costly clean-out and repairs, and stop stormwater pollution.**



*A septic tank is an enclosed container manufactured from concrete, fiberglass or plastic and is buried in the yard.*



- Pump your tank out as necessary (generally every 3 to 5 years), and **have your system inspected every 3 years.**
- Use **septic safe products**, such as dish soap, hand soap, and toilet paper.
- Avoid using excessive amounts of chemicals and **do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.**
- **Do not pour grease or fats** down your kitchen sink, as they solidify and can cause a blockage in the system.
- Do not flush anything that is **non-biodegradable** such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter, facial tissues, and paper towels.
- **Conserve water.** A septic tank can only handle a limited amount of water at once, as it needs time to separate the solids and liquids, and send liquids to a leach field.
- **Fix leaky toilets and faucets.**
- Install **water efficient** toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators
- Don't run continuous loads of laundry in one day. **Spread it out** over a few days to give your tank a chance to recover.
- Don't place anything **heavy** on your septic tank, like a shed, swimming pool, parked car or RV. The weight of these objects can damage the tank, pipes and leach field.
- Keep the leach field **clear of trees and shrubs**, as the roots can damage pipes and the tank.
- Avoid **garbage disposals**, as they can clog the leach field and increase the frequency of needing to get your tank pumped.
- **Feed the good bacteria** in the septic system. Flush a liter of spoiled buttermilk down the toilet once every few months.

NSP Stormwater Hotline Contacts, 4/1/2018-6/30/2019

| Entry Date | Type  | Description   | Location            | Municipality | Photos  | Name                               | Phone          | Email                | Admin Remarks |
|------------|---|---|---------------------|--------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 6/13/2019  | Dumping in a stormdrain , wetland or stream | White granular material dumped on bank of Pine Tree Brook in Milton behind new apt building at 60 Central Avenue. Material contained largish crystals, like a road salt, but did not quickly dissolve. Perhaps dumped by a driver parked in one of numbered spots at top of bank. Photoed 830 AM on June 13 during dissolved oxygen testing.  | 60 Central Avenue   | Milton       | <a href="http://yourcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-cd4b4f30939210a9ccde4cbe4b26b6a6/2019/06/PTB2.jpg">http://yourcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-cd4b4f30939210a9ccde4cbe4b26b6a6/2019/06/PTB2.jpg</a> , <a href="http://yourcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-cd4b4f30939210a9ccde4cbe4b26b6a6/2019/06/PTB.jpg">http://yourcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-cd4b4f30939210a9ccde4cbe4b26b6a6/2019/06/PTB.jpg</a> | Tom Palmer                         | (617) 698-7759 | palmer@neponset.org  |               |
| 5/22/2019  | Dumping in a stormdrain , wetland or stream | Frequent dumping of Yard Waste and Pet Waste into Wetland Area. Concerned citizen recognized that the spring peepers were much quieter this year as the dumping gets worse.   | 387 Atherton Street | Milton       |   | Taylor Walter                      | (781) 635-3234 | walter@neponset.org  |               |
| 11/19/2018 | Dumping in a stormdrain , wetland or stream | Cynthia McDonough noticed an outfall pipe draining into Lake Massapoag on the resident side of the lake on 11/1/2018. She noticed sediment around the area where it is draining and emailed NepRWA to raise a concern about where the water was coming from. NepRWA provided a field inspection and found that the outfall drains a wetland area on the far side of the parking lot. It did not appear to convey any stormwater.  | Lake Massapoag      | Sharon, MA   |   | Taylor Walter                      |                | Walter@neponset.org  |               |
| 7/31/2018  | Other                                       | In response to NSP regional educational mailing, received a phone call from Roy Cohen of Stoughton. He was impressed with the mailing and runs a local cable access show and would like someone to come speak. Said we would be happy to and would also check with Craig Horesfall to see if he would like to join, They tape on Thursdays. Need to pick a thursday and lett him know which one is good, then he wants a list of interview questions we should ask him. His email is royinaruba@yahoo.com and phone is 781-760-6991 | Stoughton           | Stoughton    |   | Roy Cohen (submitted by Ian Cooke) | (781) 760-6991 | royinaruba@yahoo.com |               |

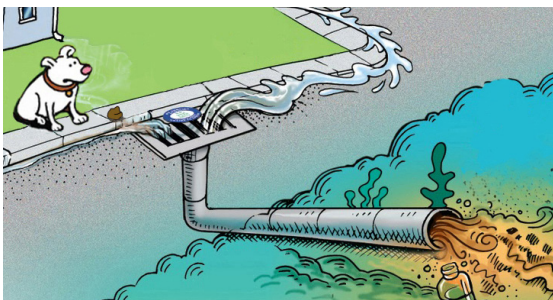
NSP Stormwater Hotline Contacts, 4/1/2018-6/30/2019

|           |                              |   |                         |           |  |           |                |                    |  |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| 7/31/2018 | Other                        | For posterity, just reporting that Ian got a phone call the week of 7/23 from a gentleman representing the MA Association of car wash owners. He saw the NSP mailing (think he is a resident of Canton) and was impressed. Said they are developing some educational materials about environmental problems of informal car washing and asked if there might be opportunities to work together. I said we would be interested in hearing more, and he promised to follow up with an email. Unfortunately I did not get his name or number, and so far he has not followed up. | watershed wide          | all       |  | Ian Cooke | (781) 575-0354 | cooke@neponset.org |  |
| 7/25/2018 | I have a question            | friend lives on private property that has a stormdrain. Every time it rains heavily, there's a big effort by the property owner to make sure it doesn't flood. Is there anything more that can be done to support a stormdrain on private property?   | n/a                     | Canton    |  | Cathy     | (781) 828-3456 |                    | Called Cathy on 8/2 and left a vmail message asking for more information.                                |
| 7/25/2018 | Clogged or broken stormdrain | Stormdrain totally clogged with dirt; growing grass   | Bay Rd. and Chemung St. | Stoughton |  | NoName    | (781) 341-1349 |                    | Reached out to Craig Horsfall and Mike Nolan to find out how they'd like to respond (7/26; followup 8/2) |

# Dog owners— *we need your help!*

Dog waste that's left on the ground is a public health issue that you can help prevent.

When dog waste is not picked up by owners, rain water and snow melt washes the bacteria and parasites from the waste into stormdrains, which then lead directly to local streams, ponds, and lakes.



Bacteria and parasites from dog waste cause water quality problems that affect drinking water resources, recreation, and wildlife.

Every time you walk your dog, please:

- carry a bag to pick up pet waste,
- dispose of waste in a trash can,
- never toss anything down a stormdrain!

*Your Department of Public Works thanks you for helping to keep local waterways clean.*



**Let's keep it clean out there!**

Not only is dog waste gross to look at, it can cause significant health issues, including:

- ***Campylobacteriosis:*** A bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.
- ***Giardiasis:*** A protozoan infection of the small intestine that can cause diarrhea, cramping, fatigue, and weight loss.
- ***Salmonellosis:*** Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting & diarrhea.
- ***Toxocariasis:*** An animal to human infection that is caused by roundworms found in the intestines of dogs. The parasite can cause vision loss, rash, fever or cough, and is a particular threat to children exposed to parasite eggs in sand and soil.

An easy way to avoid these health issues is to just pick up after your dog. It's a simple thing to do and it makes a big difference for all of us!



Learn how we're improving  
water quality in your town.

[www.nepwater.org](http://www.nepwater.org)

Your town is part of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership, which aims to help communities reduce water pollution, and save money while doing so.

Please contact the Neponset River Watershed Association for more information.  
staff@neponset.org (781) 575-0354

# There's no such thing as the poop fairy.

*It's up to YOU to pick up after your dog.*



Every time you walk your dog...

- please carry a bag to pick up pet waste,
- dispose of waste in a trash can,
- and never put anything down a storm drain!

*When dog poop gets left on the ground, rain and snow melt wash the bacteria and parasites from the waste into storm drains, which empty directly into local streams, ponds, and lakes.*

*Bacteria and parasites from dog waste cause water quality problems for drinking water resources, recreation, and wildlife—and can also cause serious health issues for people.*



Learn how we're improving water quality in your community.

[YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

Your community is part of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership, which aims to help cities and towns reduce water pollution, and save money while doing so.

For more information, please email the Neponset River Watershed Association at [stormwater@neponset.org](mailto:stormwater@neponset.org) or call 781-575-0354 x304







**Neponset River Watershed Association**

Published by Ian Cooke [?] · October 3, 2018 · 🌐

Protect your water! Keep leaves away from streams, pavement and storm drains. Learn more <https://bit.ly/2xFmu0W>



🍃 **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**  
Boost this post for \$14 to reach up to 14,000 people.

**2,213**  
People Reached

**113**  
Engagements

**Boost Post**

👍 Neponset River Regional Chamber, Vicki Kayser Rugo and 4 others · 16 Shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

### Performance for Your Post

**2,213** People Reached

**32** Likes, Comments & Shares ⓘ

**16** Likes    **6** On Post    **10** On Shares

**0** Comments    **0** On Post    **0** On Shares

**16** Shares    **16** On Post    **0** On Shares

**81** Post Clicks

**36** Photo Views    **9** Link Clicks ⓘ    **36** Other Clicks ⓘ

#### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

**0** Hide Post    **1** Hide All Posts  
**0** Report as Spam    **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

# Steps to Properly Dispose of Yard Waste in Westwood

## 2018 Leaves/Yard Waste Pickup Nov. 12, 19, 26 and Dec. 3rd

During yard waste weeks, your yard waste will be picked up on your regular trash day. Please have your bags out by 7am.

Yard Waste consists of grass clippings, leaves and twigs. No large limbs or branches will be collected.

Leaves MUST be placed in paper leaf recycling bags or loosely in barrels that are clearly marked "leaves." Do not put yard waste in Westwood recycling or trash barrels.

Barrels and bags shall not exceed 45 pounds. Anything in excess of 45 pounds will not be collected.

NO plastic bags can be collected with

yard waste, as they will cause the entire truck load to be rejected at the composting site.

Place barrels /bags curbside by 7am on your trash pickup day. Waste Management has until 5 pm to pickup

**Missed Pickup.** If your leaf bags were out by 7am on your regular trash day and not picked up by 6pm call the DPW at 781-251-2587 or email within 24 hours, and we will schedule a pickup with Waste Management. We cannot schedule yard waste pickups after the scheduled collection week has ended.

The Town does not pick up brush, branches, and limbs unless they fall from a public tree. Please call the Westwood Fire Department at

781-326-3885 for more information on private burn permits.

You can also call a local contractor in your area for information on removal and disposal.

If you have excess yard waste or miss town pick up, you may bring your yard waste to South Ridge Farm and Nursery (400 South Walpole St., Walpole) for a small fee. Call for more information on pricing and what they accept. 508-668-0401

## Compost Bins

The Town has compost bins available for resident purchase. Each bin is \$35 and can be purchased at 50 Carby Street, Monday through Friday from 7am to 3pm.

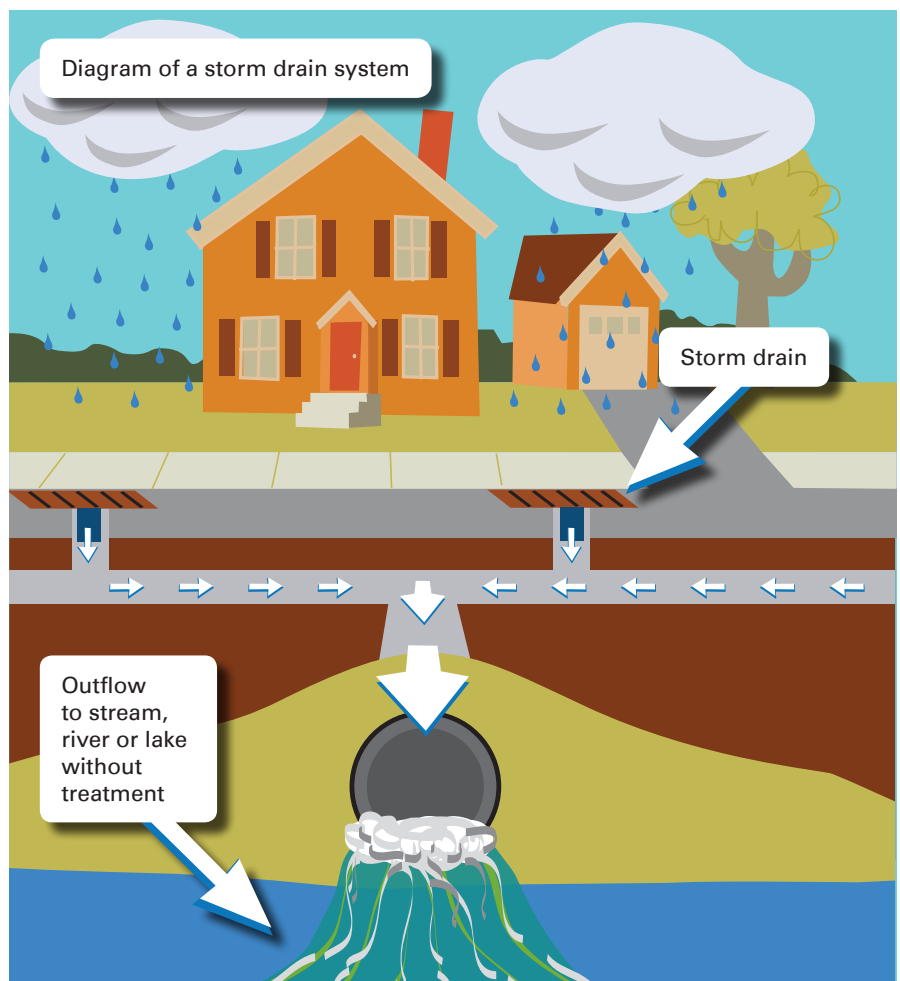
## Working Together to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Many towns in Massachusetts are covered with acres of pavement and concrete.

When rain hits these hard surfaces, it washes pollutants like pet waste, bacteria, oil, litter, fertilizer, and grass clippings into storm drains, which then lead directly to local waterways.

Water that flows into storm drains is NOT treated—and pollutants on the street flow directly into streams and ponds, affecting the health of drinking water, wildlife and recreation.

Your town is working towards cleaner waterways by participating in the Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP), which offers resources to help eliminate water pollution that comes from paved surfaces. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently released new stricter water pollution regulations that we are committed to meeting.



Call the NSP Stormwater Hotline (781) 575-0354 x300 or the Westwood DPW (781) 326-8661 with stormwater questions, or to report dumping. For more info. on stormwater prevention, go to [www.YourCleanWater.org](http://www.YourCleanWater.org).



## Help Keep Westwood's Water Clean This Fall

Leaves and grass clippings that are dumped or stored near waterways or paved areas add to water pollution.

*Did you know that fallen leaves and grass clippings are loaded with phosphorus?*

When streams, rivers, and ponds receive too much phosphorus, harmful algae and cyanobacteria blooms can occur. These blooms are unsightly and can be toxic to people, pets, and wildlife.



## Keep your local waterways clean and healthy with a few simple steps.

- Place raked leaves or lawn clippings in paper bags to be collected by the town.
- Consider composting yard waste.
- Keep paved areas and stormdrains clear of leaves.
- Keep bagged, piled and mulched leaves on natural soil, a few feet back from paved areas.
- Ensure that your lawn service is properly disposing of yard waste.
- Reduce excessive lawn chemical use and always follow manufacturer's directions.



Learn more at [www.YourCleanWater.org](http://www.YourCleanWater.org)



*The Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP) is a program managed by the Neponset River Watershed Association on behalf of ten member communities. NSP aims to increase the effectiveness of municipal stormwater management programs through regional cooperation and resource sharing.*





**Neponset River Watershed Association**



Published by Ian Cooke [?] · April 11 · 🌐

You're not just fertilizing the lawn!

While fertilizers are good for plants, they're not so good for water quality. In ponds, streams, and rivers, fertilizers are pollutants that harm fish and wildlife, can cause smelly algae blooms, and can even affect drinking water.

Learn more about fertilizer and the simple steps that you can take to protect our waterways at [www.YourCleanWater.org/lawn](http://www.YourCleanWater.org/lawn)



### Performance for Your Post

**7,995** People Reached

**112** Reactions, Comments & Shares

|                   |                      |                        |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>69</b><br>Like | <b>20</b><br>On Post | <b>49</b><br>On Shares |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|

|                  |                     |                       |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>3</b><br>Love | <b>0</b><br>On Post | <b>3</b><br>On Shares |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

|                 |                     |                       |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Wow | <b>1</b><br>On Post | <b>0</b><br>On Shares |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

|                 |                     |                       |
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| <b>1</b><br>Sad | <b>0</b><br>On Post | <b>1</b><br>On Shares |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

|                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>7</b><br>Comments | <b>1</b><br>On Post | <b>6</b><br>On Shares |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

|                     |                      |                       |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>31</b><br>Shares | <b>31</b><br>On Post | <b>0</b><br>On Shares |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|

**738** Post Clicks

|                          |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>77</b><br>Photo Views | <b>34</b><br>Link Clicks | <b>627</b><br>Other Clicks |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|

#### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>4</b> Hide Post      | <b>0</b> Hide All Posts |
| <b>0</b> Report as Spam | <b>0</b> Unlike Page    |

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts





*Image courtesy of Washington State Department of Ecology*

**You're not just  
fertilizing the lawn.**

**nsp** neponset  
stormwater  
partnership

The nutrients in fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphorus) are good for plants, but not so good for water quality. Once in ponds, streams, and rivers, the fertilizer becomes a pollutant that can badly damage local aquatic habitat and cause harmful algal blooms.

## Become a Lawn Hero and Protect Local Waterways!



- Never fertilize before a heavy rainstorm.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They are a natural fertilizer (phosphorus).
- Keep grass clippings off of pavement and away from wetlands and waterways.
- Use slow-release or natural organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers.
- Fertilize using less product or with the correct ratios that can be obtained via a soil test.
- Get an inexpensive soil test done through UMass Amherst's Soil Testing Lab, which provides a detailed report with targeted fertilizer recommendations for your exact lawn.

### More About Soil Testing

Half of all lawn owners fertilize their lawn, however, only 10–20% have soil tests done. (Center for Watershed Protection, 1999)

Getting a soil test can reduce unnecessary fertilizer use and save you excessive lawn care fees.

Visit **[YourCleanWater.org/lawn](http://YourCleanWater.org/lawn)** for step-by-step instructions to get your unique UMass Amherst soil report.

For more info., email [stormwater@neponset.org](mailto:stormwater@neponset.org) or call 781-575-0354 x304



*Your town is part of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership, which aims to help communities to reduce water pollution, and save money while doing so.*



# You're not just fertilizing the lawn.



Image courtesy of Washington State Department of Ecology

The nutrients in fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphorus) are good for plants, but not so good for water quality. Once in ponds, streams, and rivers, the fertilizer becomes a pollutant that can badly damage local aquatic habitat and cause harmful algal blooms.

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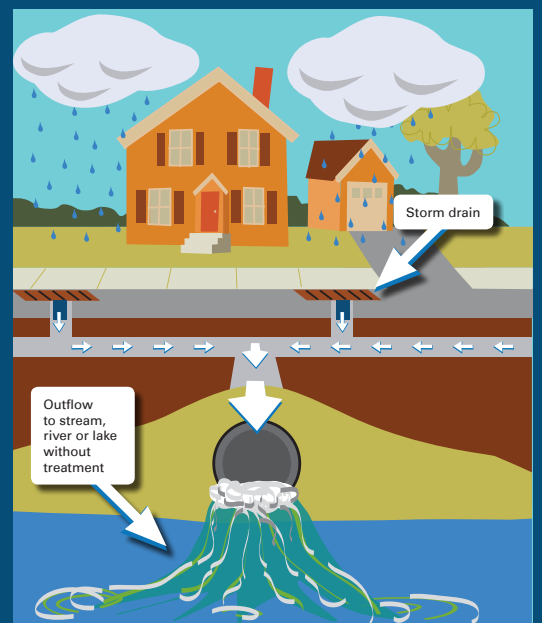
(Center for Watershed Protection, 1999)

Getting a soil test can reduce unnecessary fertilizer use and save you from expensive lawn care fees.

Visit [YourCleanWater.org/lawns](http://YourCleanWater.org/lawns) for step-by-step instructions to get your unique UMass Amherst soil report.

More at [stormwater@neponset.org](mailto:stormwater@neponset.org) or call 781-575-0354 x304

Lawn fertilizers (and other contaminants) mix with rain and irrigation runoff, washes down stormdrains on the street, and then empties into local waterways, with no filtration.





Local Postal Customer

Storm Drains Are NOT Trash Cans!



Storm Drains Go Straight to Our Streams!



# Do YOUR Part! Keep our Ponds, Rivers and Drinking Water Clean!

## Trash the Poop

Pet waste that's left on sidewalks, driveways, streets, or even lawns gets washed into storm drains and is a major source of water pollution—and a health hazard to humans.

It's important to always pick up after your pet, and put the waste in a trash can.

Never put pet waste (or anything else!) down a storm drain. Storm drains are NOT trashcans.



## Take Care With Chemicals

Household chemicals can be toxic to fish and people. Keep them away from paved areas and storm drains.

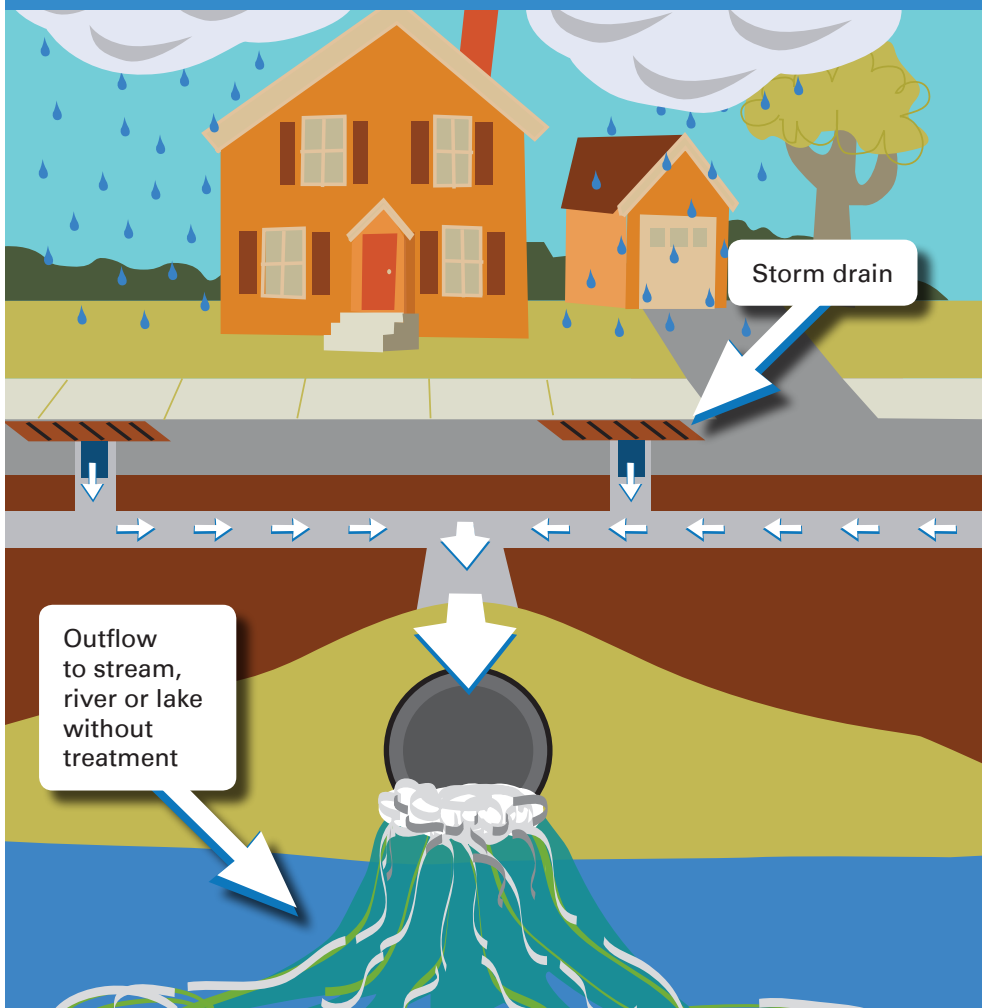
- Bring leftover medications and other chemicals to your Town's Household Hazardous Waste Day.
- Return used motor oil to the store where you bought it.
- Wash your car in a spot where soapy runoff will drain into the grass, not into storm drains.
- Never drain chlorinated swimming pools into the street.

## Fertilize Responsibly

Excessive fertilizer use causes fish kills and toxic algae blooms, which threaten public health.

- Never apply phosphorus fertilizer without a soil test. It's the law!
- Keep fertilizer away from paved areas and clean spills.
- Choose "slow-release" fertilizer.
- Follow product guidelines and never apply more fertilizer than required.
- Keep leaves and grass clippings off paved areas.

## Never Put Anything Down a Storm Drain!



## Learn More. Take Action.

Call the regional stormwater hotline to ask a question or report storm drain dumping. (781) 575-0354 x300

[www.YourCleanWater.org](http://www.YourCleanWater.org)



Brought to you by your Town and the **Neponset Stormwater Partnership**, a regional effort to protect your water and reduce flooding.

Members include Canton, Foxborough, Stoughton, Dedham, Medfield, Milton, Norwood, Quincy, Sharon, Westwood, the Neponset River Watershed Association and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.





What gets left on the pavement  
ends up in our lakes.



**Working Together for Clean Water**

Avon • Canton • Dedham • Foxborough • Medfield • Milton  
Norwood • Quincy • Sharon • Stoughton • Westwood  
*with the Neponset River Watershed Association  
and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council*

Neponset River Watershed Association  
2173 Washington Street  
Canton, MA 02021

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 54080

Local Postal Customer



Pollutants that are left on streets and sidewalks—like oil, dog poop, grass clippings, fertilizer, or litter—get washed into storm drains when it rains. Storm drains lead right to the nearest stream, lake, or beach, where the polluted runoff gets released without treatment.

[YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

What gets left on the pavement  
ends up in our water.

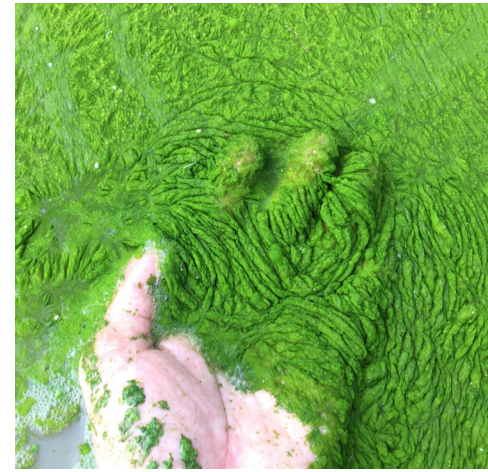




## It's Not Easy Being Green

While fertilizers (nitrogen and phosphorus) are good for plants, they're not so good for water quality.

In ponds, streams, and rivers, fertilizers become a pollutant that can badly damage aquatic habitat and cause harmful algal blooms.



You can take simple steps to prevent these issues:

- Never fertilize before a heavy rainstorm (light rain is OK).
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn with a mulching mower. Clippings are a free natural fertilizer.
- Keep clippings, leaves and yard waste off of pavement and away from storm drains and wetlands.
- Use slow-release or organic fertilizers instead of fast-release fertilizers.
- Fertilize using less product and with the correct ratios from a soil test.
- Check to see if your business or lawn service complies with the MA turf fertilizer law.

## Be a Lawn Hero

Half of all lawn owners fertilize their lawn, but only 10–20% get soil tests done. (Center for Watershed Protection, 1999). An **inexpensive** soil test can reduce unnecessary fertilizer use and save you money on lawn care fees.

Visit [YourCleanWater.org/lawn](http://YourCleanWater.org/lawn) for step-by-step instructions to get a detailed UMass Amherst soil report with targeted fertilizer recommendations for your exact lawn.



## Don't Rely on the Poop Fairy

While it would be nice if there was someone to pick up after our dogs, in reality, the responsibility lies with us.

When dog poop is left on the ground, rain and snow wash the bacteria and parasites from the waste into storm drains, which empty directly into local streams, ponds, lakes, and beaches.

Not only is dog waste gross to look at, it can cause significant health issues, including Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, and Toxocariasis.



Bacteria and parasites from dog waste cause pollution problems for drinking water resources, recreation, and wildlife.

### Every time you walk your dog, please:

- Carry a bag to pick up pet waste,
- Dispose of waste in a trash can,
- Never toss anything down a storm drain!

## Keep a Lid on It

Cigarette butts and plastic trash do not belong on the beach—and you can help to prevent it.

Trash that blows, washes, or is dumped into wetlands, waterways, and storm drains ends up in our rivers and flows to the ocean—and is the main source of plastic pollution in our oceans.

Please remember...

- Storm drains are not trash cans! Never throw or pour anything in a storm drain. It's illegal!
- Litter that's left on the street will wash into the nearest storm drain.
- Yard waste is trash too, never dump yard waste in a stream or wetland.
- Keep dumpsters and trash cans closed and tightly covered. Open dumpsters and cans fill with rain, which leaks out as highly polluted "dumpster juice" and attracts rats.



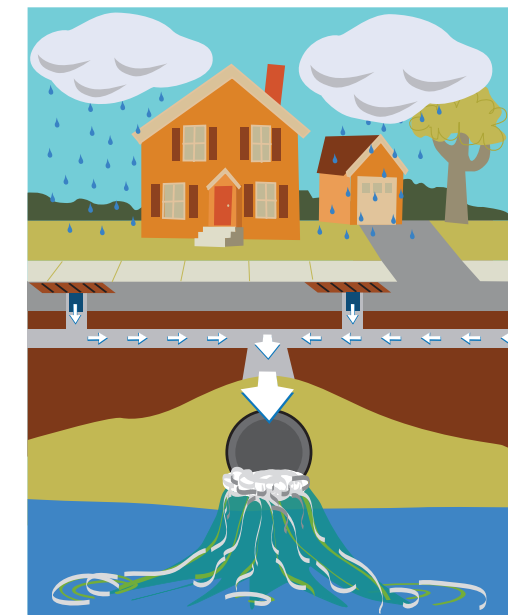
## Your Actions Really Do Make a Difference!

Any of the steps in this brochure that you can take at your home or business will make a difference in local water quality.

To learn more about stormwater issues, visit [YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

Also, if you see any signs of pollution or something in a waterway that looks suspicious, please let us know by contacting us at the **Stormwater Hotline** 781-575-0354 x300 or at [YourCleanWater.org/report](mailto:YourCleanWater.org/report)

Questions/Feedback?  
Please email us anytime at [StormWater@neponset.org](mailto:StormWater@neponset.org)



Water that flows into storm drains is NOT treated—and pollutants on the street flow directly into streams and ponds, affecting our water.

Contaminated runoff from paved areas is the biggest problem affecting the Neponset, Charles, and Taunton Rivers—and our ocean—but you can help stop this pollution at your home and business.

## Working Together for Clean Water

Your community is leading the effort to end water pollution and ensure that you and your family—and generations to come—can enjoy clean water.

As a member of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP), they are making a strong commitment toward a healthy future. NSP aims to help towns and cities reduce water pollution, comply with federal pollution reduction requirements, and save money through regional cooperation. Learn more at [YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

