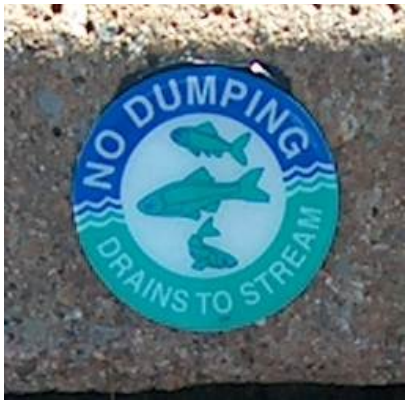

Why Webster Needs a Stormwater Bylaw

Webster is one of the 253 communities in Massachusetts that are **legally required** to develop stormwater bylaws under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Phase 2 Stormwater program. The goal of this program is to minimize the impacts to water resources from municipally-owned stormwater systems, which includes storm drains, catch basins, detention ponds and outfalls. The Webster Stormwater Committee has created a bylaw that addresses Webster's needs in addition to the legal federal requirements.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or drainage from irrigation flows over land, and then drains into surface water bodies and groundwater. Stormwater runoff from developed areas can be contaminated with pollutants from fertilizers, pesticides, litter, chemical spills, automobile fluids, deicing salts, pet waste and septic systems.

Runoff from developed areas is the largest pollution source responsible for the impairment of our wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds.

Clean stormwater runoff from natural areas is also an important source of recharge to the groundwater; replenishing groundwater wells and supplying base flow to lakes, ponds, springs, brooks and tributaries.

How is Stormwater Regulated?

In 1990, the EPA promulgated Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to regulate runoff from "medium" and "large" municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), construction activities disturbing 5 acres of land or greater, and ten categories of industrial activities. While Phase I was a good beginning, it addressed a small segment of the problem. In 1999, the EPA instituted the Phase II Rule, extending coverage of the NPDES stormwater program to certain "small" MS4s and construction activities disturbing 1 or more acres of land. Webster is classified by EPA as one of these "small" MS4s.

Under the NPDES Phase II rule, Webster is required to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that reduces stormwater pollution, protects the water quality of Webster's lakes, ponds, rivers and wetlands and satisfies the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

What is Webster Doing to Manage Stormwater?

Webster has long recognized the importance of protecting its natural resources and has established regulations including the Conservation and Lake Watershed Protection Districts to provide an added level of protection for key natural features, such as Webster Lake. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission review stormwater management for projects that require Site Plan Review or an Order of Conditions. While these regulations protect a significant portion of the town's most susceptible areas, additional regulations are required to comply with the town's NPDES MS4 permit.

Webster has established a Stormwater Management Committee and retained the firm of Tighe & Bond, Inc. to develop and implement a town-wide Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) in order to fully comply with its current NPDES permit and to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff within the Town.

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Or visit us online at www.webster-ma.gov

Town Of Webster
Massachusetts
Est. 1832

Webster's Proposed Stormwater Bylaw

Webster DPW and the Stormwater Committee are proposing to add a new General By-law entitled "Stormwater Management". This proposed by-law will address large construction projects and post-construction stormwater runoff from new development.

The bylaw also prohibits **non-stormwater discharges** from entering the municipal storm drain system.

The proposed by-law identifies who is regulated, sets procedures for permitting and compliance, and establishes Webster's legal authority to ensure by-law compliance through inspection, monitoring, and enforcement. The Planning Board and Department of Public Works will share responsibility for permitting review and enforcement of by-law compliance.

How can the bylaws help protect Webster's watershed's?

- Erosion and sedimentation impact aquatic habitat by increasing turbidity, and adding nutrients and pathogens to the water. Sediment can enter fish gills making it hard for them to breathe.
- The bylaws will help avoid sedimentation and erosion from stormwater runoff by improving construction practices.
- The bylaw will protect the waters of Webster from contamination by toxic chemicals by eliminating prohibited discharges.

How will the bylaw impact construction projects?

- Applies to new projects impacting 10,000 SF or more acres of land, or 25% impervious coverage
- Applies to areas with high pollution potential
- Exempts typical home improvement projects: such as patios, gardens, additions and pools
- Exempts projects that have already been permitted
- Planning Board will develop rules and regulations to address construction erosion

What are non-stormwater discharges?

- Non-stormwater discharge, also called illicit discharge includes sewage, process wastewater, wash water and chemical pollutants including paint, oil, and other automotive fluids.
- Clean water is OK to discharge. For example, landscape irrigation water, firefighting flow and car wash water are exempt from the bylaw.

What happens if the Bylaw is not passed?

- Without a bylaw, the town can be subject to tens of thousands of dollars in fines from EPA.

Legally Required Components of a Stormwater Management Plan

(1) Public Education and Outreach: Conduct public education activities about the impacts that everyone has on stormwater runoff and on water quality.
(2) Public Participation and Involvement: Provide opportunities for public participation and involvement in stormwater management.
(3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate prohibited discharges to the storm drain system.
(4) Construction Site Runoff Control: Develop, implement, and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities.
(5) Post-Construction Runoff Control: Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas.
(6) Pollution Prevention: Develop, implement, and maintain a program to prevent or reduce runoff of stormwater pollution from municipal operations.