

The Pembroke Stormwater Times

Spring 2019



WHY DOES STORMWATER QUALITY MATTER?

Stormwater, or runoff, is the water that flows as a result of rain or snowmelt. Stormwater travels across pavement collecting sediment, chemicals, and pollutants, including but not limited to motor oil, gasoline, lawn chemicals, pet waste, and deicing chemicals.

Stormwater can carry these harmful pollutants directly into waterways without any treatment to remove them.

When this occurs, the quality of drinking water and waterways used for recreation can be affected.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is estimated that stormwater runoff is responsible for over half of the pollution in America's waterways.

Pembroke residents enjoy being bordered by the Merrimack, Suncook, and Soucook Rivers, so the health of these rivers is of utmost importance.

There are many measures that communities and homeowners can take to protect waterways and drinking water. Read on to learn more.

HOW IS THE TOWN DOING ITS PART?

Under new EPA requirements, towns must implement a collective series of programs to protect the water quality of local streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Consequently, the Town must adopt a Stormwater Management Plan which will guide best management practices for street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and maintenance, use of fertilizers and other chemicals, and road salt procedures. The Department of Public Works is the primary agent responsible for making sure our stormwater system works to treat and convey runoff in an environmentally-conscious manner.



View of the Merrimack River from White Sands Recreation Area

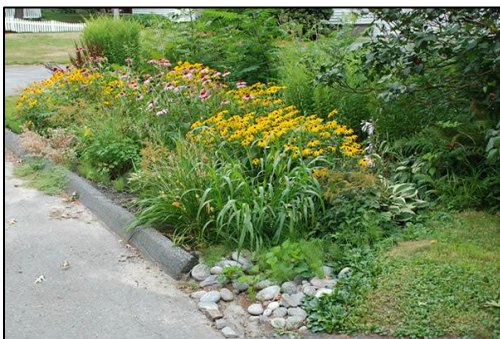
TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Please help keep Pembroke's beautiful waterways clean. It's easier than you think. Here are just a few ways you can help...

- Pick up and properly dispose of dog waste. Discarded pet waste can carry harmful bacteria, like E. coli, into rivers and streams.
- Choose organic lawn treatments whenever possible and use sparingly.
- Start a compost pile and don't store yard waste or lawn clippings near streams, storm drains or wetlands.
- Place a rain barrel under your downspout to collect water for reuse in your lawn or garden.
- Plant a rain garden with moisture-loving plants to naturally filter sediments and recharge groundwater.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly through DPW's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
- Use natural, non-toxic household cleaners.
- Wash your car where soap can runoff into grass rather than onto the street and into storm drains.
- Collect and contain all used motor oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids to be recycled at an appropriate facility.
- Never discharge swimming pool water directly into a storm drain as pool chemicals can damage aquatic life.

Be on the lookout!

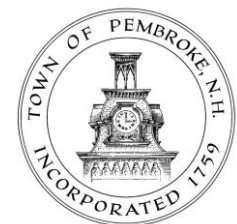
Several amendments to the town land use regulations, as well as some new stormwater management ordinances, will be before the Pembroke Planning Board and Board of Selectmen in the upcoming months. Public hearing notices will be posted accordingly. An informed and knowledgeable community is crucial to the success of a stormwater management program, so expect to receive more informational materials in the future!



Residential rain garden.



Runoff from car washing can enter storm drains and discharge into our rivers.



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Planning & Building Department