

Danvers Stormwater

April 2017

What is Stormwater and Why Does It Matter?



Stormwater is the water that runs off the land surface when it rains or snow melts. It enters the Town's **storm drain** system and **flows directly to local lakes, streams, and wetlands**. Stormwater runoff from undeveloped land is typically low since most rain or snow melt infiltrates into the ground or is lost to evaporation. Additional runoff from developed areas is created from impervious surfaces like streets, parking lots, and rooftops that prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



Photo: Liberty Street

Stormwater from developed areas typically contains a number of **pollutants**, such as oil and grease from roadways and parking lots, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, sediment from construction sites, sand and dirt from roadway maintenance practices, and carelessly discarded trash such as cigarette butts, wrappers, plastic bags, and plastic bottles. When these pollutants enter water bodies, they can contaminate drinking water supplies, hinder recreation activities, and harm aquatic and other wildlife habitats.

In addition to washing pollutants into our surface waters, improperly managed stormwater runoff can result in soil erosion and flooding.

10 Tips to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

1. Use **fertilizers sparingly** and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
2. **Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams**
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard
4. **Compost** your yard waste
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a **rain garden or a rain barrel** to capture runoff (rain barrels can be purchased at 95 Hobart Street)
7. Take your car to a **car wash** instead of washing it in the driveway
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
9. **Pick up after your pet—scoop your pet's poop**
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

The NPDES Stormwater Program (Why it Matters)



Photo: Town of Danvers, downtown storm drain with new marker

The **Clean Water Act** (1972) authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States through the **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit program.

Objectives of the NPDES Stormwater Program are to reduce the discharge of stormwater pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, **to protect water quality**, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the **Clean Water Act**. As a suburban community, **Danvers is regulated by this permit program**. To raise awareness in the community, **storm drain markers** will be installed throughout town to help protect water quality. Information on all Massachusetts communities regulated by the Phase II Stormwater Program can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma.html>

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

Pick up after your pet—Scoop the Poop

Did you know that un-scooped poop pollutes our water? Dog waste has twice as much bacteria as human waste. Here are a few tips:

- Always bring bags when out with your pet.
- Always put filled bags in trash cans, even bio-degradable bags.
- **Never put dog waste into a storm drain.** Storm drains flow directly into our local waters, they are not connected to the sanitary sewer.



Cleaning up after your pet is not just about the mess—it's **about clean water and health**. Thank you for scooping your dogs poop. For more information check out Greenscapes at www.greenscapes.org (Salem Sound Coastwatch).



Stormwater Management Program

Town of Danvers

1 Sylvan Street

Danvers, MA 01923

Ph: 978-777-0001 x3011