

2014 Stormwater Status Report



Last year, the Town continued to take action to maintain stormwater infrastructure and improve stream water quality. Below is a partial list of some of the efforts taken by the Town:

- Actively participated with other permit communities in the Regional Stormwater Education Program, www.smartwaterways.org, and the Chittenden County Stream Team Public Participation Program, www.ccstreamteam.org.
- Reconstructed failed piping systems and catch basins on Willoughby Dr., Towers Rd., Clover Dr., Sydney Dr., Kurk Dr., Pinewood Dr., Greenfield Rd., Pinecrest Dr., Bluestem Rd., Lang Dr., Susie Wilson Rd., Joshua Way, Pioneer St., Logwood Circle, Greenbriar Dr., Sand Hill Rd., and a number of other locations.
- As part of the annual Green-Up Day, an estimated 240 volunteers helped to collect 4.12 tons of mixed trash and 192 tires as well as metal waste and 2.2 tons of wood and debris. Areas along many of the Town's waterways were cleaned, including Indian Brook and Sunderland Brook, which are considered "impaired" by the State of Vermont.
- Swept all paved Town streets more than twice in the year, removing over 302 tons of material that could have gotten into nearby waterways, cleaned in excess of 154 catch basins, resulting in 98 tons of material potentially removed from the waterways.
- Inspected 893 catch basins in the Town for structural damage and amount of accumulated debris, through use of summer interns. Additionally, the summer interns performed water quality testing at several locations, measuring levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorine, and suspended solids



Ongoing Stormwater Efforts

Flow Monitoring

The Town is required to monitoring Indian and Sunderland Brooks under the State Stormwater Permit. Bill H.650 was passed in 2014 that allows the MS4s to pay the State to implement flow monitoring. More information will be made available later this year as discussions between the MS4 communities and the State continue.

Expired Permits

In the fall, the Town Selectboard and Village Trustees passed the Expired Permit Ordinance at the recommendation of the Joint Stormwater Committee. Engineering inspections of the expired permit systems started in late summer and will continue this spring. The Town and Village will work with residents to outline each flow contributor's responsibility under the expired permit.

Flow Restoration Plans

The Town and Village are working with Watershed Consulting Associates and Aldrich and Elliott Consulting Engineers to develop Flow Restoration Plans (FRP) for both impaired waterways in Essex. The Town and Village were awarded a grant from VTRANS in the amount of \$64,000 with a \$16,000 local match to assist with the development of the FRP to be submitted to the State by October 1, 2016. Once the FRPs are completed, the Joint Stormwater Committee will make a recommendation to the Selectboard and Trustees. When both Boards come to a decision on the plan, residents will be informed. Once the State has reviewed and approved the plan to meet stream water quality standards, the MS4 permit holders will be put on a compliance schedule to construct the facilities. The time frame under the current permit could be anywhere from 5 to 20 years as determined by the State. The effort will only succeed through cooperation between the public and private sector and between the permitted MS4 partners.

New Chloride Standard

The Agency of Natural Resources recently adopted a new standard for dissolved chloride in the waters of the State. The State is proposing additional monitoring of streams that they are concerned have higher chloride levels than the standard, but the program is still in its preliminary stages. Although the amount of salt application has been reduced within the Town, the Town still applies salt and will be required to comply with the program the State lays out in the future. To have a better understanding of the chloride levels in our streams, interns will perform chloride testing this summer.

Lake Champlain TMDL

Bill H.35, which describes the State's efforts to meet the phosphorus TMDL for Lake Champlain, has not been finalized. Because there are 23.16 miles of gravel roads located within the Town, the Town will be required to comply with Bill H.35. The level of compliance is unknown until the Bill is finalized and passed later this spring.

Annie Costandi, E.I. is the Stormwater Coordinator for the Town. Please feel free to contact her via email at acostandi@essex.org or phone at (802) 878-1344. Updated information regarding expired permits, flow restoration plans, and the efforts of the JSWC and other stormwater-related information can be found on the Town's website at www.essex.org.