

EPA New England Stormwater Updates – August 2022

This e-update provides information about green infrastructure, MS4 permits, and other stormwater-related topics from EPA New England. For more about Soak up the Rain, please visit www.epa.gov/soakuptherain. For more stormwater tools and assistance, please visit [Stormwater Tools](#).

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- Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience: An Implementation Guide

- Advancing Watershed Protection Through Land Conservation: A Guide for Land Trusts
- Urban Waters Learning Network Equitable Development and Anti-Displacement Collaborative
- Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM) Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners
- EPA Trash Free Waters Program Case Study Report: Curbside Disposal Education Campaign Pilot

MA & NH MS4 Corner

Upcoming Webinars: MS4 Annual Reporting Using the Year 4 Template (8/16/2022 & 9/12/2022)

For those covered under the 2016 Massachusetts and 2017 New Hampshire Small MS4 General Permits, the Year 4 reporting period concluded on June 30th, 2022, and **annual reports are due September 28th, 2022**. EPA Region 1 is hosting two identical webinar trainings to walk permittees through the Year 4 reporting templates and to answer any questions about annual reports and the reporting process. Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/stormwater-tools-new-england#arr> to view and download the template and Frequently Asked Questions document.

Register here:

Session 1: Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 10:00am-11:00am:

https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceurqz0vHjph6O_MpqUCn1B62JQn16k

Session 2: Monday, September 12th, 2022, 10:00am-11:00am:

<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcuutqj0jEmDlcfnaVepTaM2Z2OLM-OM>

MassDEP's FY23 MS4 Municipal Assistance Grants RFR Now Open

This program, introduced in 2017, enables groups of Massachusetts municipalities to expand their efforts to meet requirements for the 2016 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permits, and to reduce stormwater pollution through coordinated partnerships that emphasize resource sharing. The FY 2022 Notice of Grant Opportunity and detailed description of the grant program, along with instructions to join a Bidders' Conference on Thursday, August 4, 2022, are available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program>. Applications are due electronically by 5:00 PM on September 8, 2022.

2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey Open

The [2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey](#) (CWNS) opened March 1st, 2022! This national survey assesses capital investment needed to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. Stormwater needs are included in this year's survey and we are asking municipalities to contribute their data for an accurate assessment. This is an opportunity to showcase what significant need there is in our states for funding for stormwater management.

Eligible projects must be:

- Eligible for funding under the national CWSRF guidelines
- Unfunded as of January 1st, 2022 (i.e., construction has not started nor have external funds been committed to the project)
- Expected to be constructed within the CWNS 20-year planning horizon (2022-2041)

Accepted documents include capital improvement plans, asset management plans, integrated plans, or long-term stormwater plans. More information about which stormwater and green infrastructure projects can be included in the CWNS is available here in this factsheet: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-05/Clean%20Watersheds%20Needs%20Survey%20Stormwater%20Needs%20Factsheet.pdf>

Massachusetts: If your municipality has Capital Improvement Plans, Asset Management Plans, or Stormwater Management Plans that include municipality-specific cost needs for stormwater, please submit to them to MassDEP's data entry portal. MassDEP will review all submissions and then gather eligible information for submission to EPA. To submit your own municipality's documentation on stormwater needs navigate to data entry portal from this website: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms#2022-clean-watersheds-needs-survey-is-now-open>. If your municipality does not have any of these planning documents, MassDEP has developed a state-specific approach that estimate cost needs for all MS4 municipalities. This approach relies on MS4 cost implementation estimates for all MS4 communities and estimates needs for \$/lb Phosphorus removed for communities in the Mystic and Charles River Watershed to estimate stormwater needs. For any questions specific to MA, please reach out to Laura Schifman at laura.schifman@mass.gov.

New Hampshire: New Hampshire has engaged a consulting firm, Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI), to gather and report eligible stormwater CWNS data to EPA. Municipalities should expect to hear from CEI to point them to their documentation and to discuss eligibility of documented projects. Once CEI has gathered available project and cost data for all municipalities that have it, they will use the EPA-approved New Hampshire State Specific Approach to generate costs for all remaining municipalities. This innovative method, first created by New Hampshire for the most recent CWNS in 2012, divides all state municipalities into five categories; calculates a rate per acre for each category based on municipalities within that category with eligible data; then applies that rate to the acreage in each remaining municipalities in that category. In this way, all municipalities in New Hampshire will have costs reported for the 2022 CWNS. For any questions, please reach out to Lisa Loosigian at lisa.loosigian@des.nh.gov.

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Soak Up the Rain Updates



***Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series:
Dissolved Phosphorus and Green Infrastructure:
Fundamentals, Challenges, and Opportunities***

Wednesday, September 28th, 1:30 PM – 3:00PM ET

[Click Here to Register](#)

Reducing phosphorus pollution in aquatic ecosystems is a primary goal in many watersheds across the United States to mitigate eutrophication and harmful algal blooms. Several forms of green infrastructure can effectively reduce loads of total phosphorus to surface waters through the retention of particles and associated phosphorus. Retention of dissolved phosphorus has proven to be more challenging, and in some cases poor retention of dissolved phosphorus, or even net dissolved phosphorus release, can compromise phosphorus load reduction goals. Furthermore, limited overall capacity to retain dissolved phosphorus in green infrastructure systems can potentially result in declining performance over time.

In this webinar, Eric Roy will discuss the fundamental biogeochemistry underpinning dissolved phosphorus dynamics in green infrastructure and highlight key mechanisms that control both dissolved phosphorus retention from water and release to water. Drawing on literature and recent research in Vermont, this presentation will address the challenge that dissolved phosphorus poses to water quality improvement efforts, opportunities to better manage dissolved phosphorus and enhance green infrastructure performance (including amendment of soil media with drinking water treatment residuals), and the use of phosphorus metrics to inform green infrastructure design. This webinar will include examples of green infrastructure at multiple scales, including urban green stormwater infrastructure (e.g., bioretention and subsurface gravel wetlands) as well as larger ecosystem-scale systems (e.g., restored riparian wetlands).

Speaker:

- Eric D. Roy, PhD, Associate Professor at Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources & Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Vermont

Register via Zoom: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kD1PhX_-SGGsvJLHLb5SaA

Slides Available:

"The New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual: Upgrading the Performance of your Stormwater Management System for Better Watershed Health."

Original Airdate: July 26, 2022

<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-new-england-webinar-archive#20220726>

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Other Events and Opportunities

SNEP Webinar: Stormwater Financing 101 (8/30/2022 11:00am-12:00pm EST)

What is stormwater financing? In this webinar, you will learn about how stormwater programs are managed, the basics of setting stormwater utility fees, and examples of stormwater program implementation. This webinar will also cover the legislation in Southern New England that enables communities to establish stormwater utility programs. Register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/628171208647043856>

2022 Water & Health Conference: Research, Policy and Practice (10/24/2022 – 10/28/2022)

Founded in 2009 at UNC Chapel-Hill, the Water Institute is committed to improving public health by achieving universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) services that are safe, affordable and sustainable. The 2022 Conference will include plenaries and presentations. To learn more about this year's conference:

<https://waterinstitute.unc.edu/our-work/conferences>

Maine Stormwater Conference (11/1/2022 – 11/2/2022)

The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Maine Stormwater Conference in Portland, Maine will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with two days of presentations showcasing innovation and embracing challenges from the past 50 years. View the agenda and register at:

<https://www.cumberlandswcd.org/stormwater-conference>

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News Articles and Press Releases

Ecological Amenity or Weedy Pit? (6/14/2022)

by Kate Cholakis and Eliza Pennypacker, Ecological Landscape Alliance
Acknowledging key differences between rain gardens and the residential "landscape norm" is key to changing perceptions.

<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/06/managing-water-in-the-landscape/rain-gardens/ecological-amenity-or-weedy-pit/>

UNH research: Forest to pasture -- keeping trees could reduce climate consequences (6/15/2022)

Robbin Ray, University of New Hampshire Newsroom
Researchers at the University of New Hampshire studied a practice known as silvopasture which intentionally preserves trees in pastures where livestock graze.

<https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/news/release/2022/06/15/unh-research-forest-pasture-keeping-trees-could-reduce-climate-consequences>

Extreme heat is coming. Boston needs to prepare -- now. (6/24/2022)

The Editorial Board, The Boston Globe
'Cool roofs,' more trees, and names for heat waves.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/06/24/opinion/extreme-heat-is-coming-boston-needs-prepare-now/>

EPA News Release: EPA Announces \$55 Million WIFIA Loan to Modernize Wastewater

Infrastructure in Providence, Rhode Island, and Protect Narragansett Bay (7/27/2022)

Nationally, 89 WIFIA loans are financing nearly \$33 billion in water infrastructure upgrades, creating 100,000 jobs

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-55-million-wifia-loan-modernize-wastewater-infrastructure-providence-0>

EPA News Release: EPA New England to Invest up to \$24 Million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Help Protect and Restore its Six Estuaries of National Significance (7/27/2022)

EPA releases guidance on how the agency will administer the program

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-new-england-invest-24-million-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-help-protect-and>

EPA Announces Initial Availability of \$11 Million for Technical Assistance Centers to Support Underserved Communities (8/5/2022)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$11 million in initial grant funding to establish Environmental Justice (EJ) Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers across the nation.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-initial-availability-11-million-technical-assistance-centers-support>

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Funding and Assistance Opportunities

EPA Training and Technical Assistance for Rural, Small and Tribal Municipalities and Wastewater Treatment Systems for Clean Water Act Prevention, Reduction and Elimination of Pollution (Applications due August 22, 2022)

EPA is soliciting applications to provide training and technical assistance to rural, small and tribal municipalities, publicly owned wastewater treatment works and decentralized wastewater treatment systems for the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution. Eligible activities include training and technical assistance only. Infrastructure construction projects such as repairing water or sewer lines, adding new equipment or upgrading, retrofitting or rehabilitating existing equipment are not eligible for funding under this announcement. To learn more: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=341392>

Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program 2022 (Applications due 9/22/2022)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Program staff coordinates with partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. Coastal Program habitat improvement projects strive to increase coastal resiliency by improving the ability of coastal ecosystems to adapt to environmental changes and supporting natural and nature-based infrastructure projects to protect and enhance coastal habitats. To learn more about this grant opportunity, click here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=336964>.

EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (Applications due 10/4/2022)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of \$11 million in initial grant funding to establish Environmental Justice (EJ) Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers across the nation. The EPA funding is available under the first year of a partnership with the Department of Energy, with future phases of up to 10 multi-year awards for a maximum potential program value of \$50 million. The Centers will provide technical assistance, training, and capacity-building support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners. The support provided will focus on building community-centered collaborations through meaningful engagement, guidance on

accessing other forms of support and technical assistance across the federal government, and assistance with writing grant proposals.

This opportunity is available to public and private universities and colleges; public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations; and collaborating tribal governments. Applications are due on October 4, 2022. Awards will be issued as cooperative agreements and EPA will be substantially involved in the operation of the centers.

For more information on this opportunity:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>

DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Program (Applications due 10/13/2022)

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) anticipates posting one or more Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) in Summer of 2022. The RCP was created under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will provide up to \$1 billion over the next 5 years. The program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to equitably and safely restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

The DOT hosted a webinar for potential applicants to get ready for the forthcoming Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program on Thursday, May 19, 2022. View the recording here: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Programs (Deadlines Vary)

Under the American Rescue Plan, EDA was allocated \$3 billion in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and to build local economies that will be resilient to future economic shock. EDA investments will have a focus on underserved communities impacted by COVID-19 and there are six funding opportunities. To learn more about the funding opportunities, click here: <https://www.eda.gov/arpa/>.

Other Available Funding: EPA provides grant announcements and other funding resources on the [Green Infrastructure Funding](#) page, including the ongoing [Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program](#). The [Available Funding for Stormwater Projects in Massachusetts](#) page provides a table with descriptions and links to information on federal and state grant and loan programs that fund stormwater and water quality projects in the state.

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[Heat.Gov](#) – the New Federal Heat Web Portal

Heat-related illnesses and deaths are largely preventable with proper planning, education, and action. [Heat.Gov](#) is the newly-released web portal for the National Integrated Heat Health Information System – a Federal interagency collaboration including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Centers for Disease Control, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Read the press release here: <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/biden-administration-launches-heatgov-with-tools-for-communities-facing-extreme-heat>

The new site serves as a go-to source of heat and health information for the nation to

reduce the health, economic, and infrastructural impacts of extreme heat. [Heat.Gov](https://www.heat.gov/) offers maps, data and information from across disciplines, from inside and outside of government, that will enable informed community decision making. Users can learn about extreme heat, heat islands, planning and preparing for extreme heat, and who is most at risk. The website also includes information on upcoming news and events, and links to many useful tools. Several EPA resources can be found on the site, including materials related to heat islands, climate change, and heat health. Explore at: <https://www.heat.gov/>

Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience: An Implementation Guide

This guide from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management's Digital Coast and the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration is designed to help transportation practitioners understand how and where nature-based and hybrid solutions can be used to improve the resilience of coastal roads and bridges. It summarizes the potential flood-reduction benefits, co-benefits, and site suitability assessments for these strategies. Considerations for engineering and ecological design, permitting, construction, and monitoring and maintenance are also provided. This implementation guide is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's focus on Nature-Based Resilience for Coastal Highways. <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/highway-resilience.html>

Advancing Watershed Protection Through Land Conservation: A Guide for Land Trusts

There are >1,300 land conservation organizations across the US who can be key partners in helping achieve water quality restoration and protection goals. This guide, developed by the EPA Healthy Watersheds Program and the Land Trust Alliance, is aimed at helping orient staff within these organizations to EPA water programs, resources, and concepts relevant to watershed protection.

<https://www.epa.gov/hwp/tools-and-resources-protect-watersheds#LandTrustGuide>

Urban Waters Learning Network Equitable Development and Anti-Displacement Collaborative

The Urban Waters Learning Network surveyed network members to collect blog posts, webinars, impact stories and other resources about gentrification and displacement onto one page for the Equitable Development and Anti-Displacement Collaborative. To view the resources: <https://urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org/equitable-development-and-anti-displacement-collaborative/>

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (MA CZM) Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners

MA CZM recently launched the Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners website with fact sheets that offer property owners a range of best practices for reducing and treating stormwater on site. Each fact sheet includes information on the technique's benefits; recommended guidelines for locating, designing, implementing, and maintaining specific practices; and a brief overview of regulatory and permitting requirements. Step-by-step instructional guidelines, photos, and figures can help homeowners select the most appropriate projects and practices for their property to help protect local water quality, reduce flooding, and improve wildlife habitats. The four techniques covered in this first round of fact sheets are: Vegetated Buffers, "Green" Lawn and Garden Practices, Rain Gardens, and Reducing Impervious Surfaces. Access the website and factsheets at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stormwater-solutions-for-homeowners>

EPA Trash Free Waters Program Case Study Report: Curbside Disposal Education Campaign Pilot

This case study report highlights the findings and recommendations of "The Cleaner Communities and Waterways" Curbside Disposal Education Pilot Campaign. This project was piloted in Washington, D.C., through a partnership with the local District government. The primary goal of this initiative was to educate residents about proper waste containment and encourage behavioral changes to reduce unintentional leakage associated with curbside municipal trash collection. To learn more about this project and how to launch a similar campaign in your community, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools#curbside>. Aquatic trash prevention information and resources for municipal stormwater and solid waste professionals can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/aquatic-trash-prevention-information-and-resources-stormwater-and-solid-waste>

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