How is Falmouth meeting these Clean Water Act requirements?

The Town of Falmouth is working hard to comply with stormwater permit requirements. Responsibilities of departments within Falmouth are summarized below and primary points of contact (POC) identified.

Public Works | Primary POC: Jay Reynolds, *Public Works Director*

- Serves as the stormwater program point of contact (POC) with DEP..
- Creates and maintains up-to-date maps of all municipal stormwater infrastructure.
- Inspects and maintains all municipal stormwater infrastructure.
- Follows pollution prevention measures to ensure municipal operations do not pollute water resources.
- Uses erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction & maintenance.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and works to eliminate these sources with Falmouth's Town Engineer.
- Coordinates with all municipal departments to ensure that operation & maintenance practices are followed, and provides guidance and training as needed.
- Implements good housekeeping measures on Town's roads and right-of-ways.
- Reviews & updates Falmouth's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP); performs & documents inspections.
- Ensures staff are trained in procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and use of erosion control measures.

The Interlocal Stormwater Working Group (ISWG)

is composed of 14 MS4 communities in the Greater Portland and Saco Bay areas (see map on Page 2). ISWG is coordinated by the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District and works cooperatively to meet the permit's education requirements (steps 1 & 2) for all 14 municipalities collectively.

Planning | Primary POC: Amanda Sterns, *Community Development Director*

- Reviews site plans for erosion and sedimentation control practices to ensure:
  - Construction projects include stormwater control measures (SCMs) to avoid polluting water resources; and
  - Post-construction SCMs are incorporated into development designs to help keep untreated runoff from entering into Falmouth's stormwater infrastructure.
- Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development, which minimizes environmental impact from development.
- References Falmouth's non-stormwater ordinance when needed.
- Requires that a Third-Party Inspector is included on larger projects to ensure construction and post-construction systems designed to collect and treat stormwater on pubic and private property are functioning properly.

Engineering | Primary POC: Jamie Mason, *Town Engineer*

- Coordinates implementation of Falmouth's Stormwater Management Plan through municipal departments coordination.
- Works with Planning to review site plan proposals to ensure proper SCMs and appropriate erosion control are used.
- Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development to minimize environmental impacts from development.
- Through technical review and permitting follow-up, ensures systems designed to collect and treat stormwater (on pubic and private property) are maintained and functioning.
- Ensures construction runoff control by performing site inspections. Documents inspections for annual reporting requirements, ensuring post-construction runoff control is achieved.

Code Enforcement | Primary POC: Justin Brown, *Code Enforcement Officer*

- Inspects small-scale (e.g. single family homes) construction projects (on both public and private property) to ensure erosion and sedimentation control practices are being used and pollutants are not entering the storm drain system.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Jay Reynolds, *Public Works Director.*

Parks & Recreation | Primary POC: Lucky D'Ascanio, *Parks & Community Programs Director*

- Follows operation and maintenance plan to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained to minimize pollution, including: proper chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Jay Reynolds, *Public Works Director.*

School Department | Primary POC: Topper West, *Facilities Director*

- Follows operation and maintenance plan to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained to minimize pollution, including: proper chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Jay Reynolds, *Public Works Director.*

Public Safety | Primary POC: Howard Rice, *Fire Chief and* Ed Tolan, *Police Chief*

- Follows operation and maintenance plans for their facilities to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained to minimize pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Jay Reynolds, *Public Works Director.*

DEP's Point of Contact for Falmouth's MS4 Permit is Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director.

Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

Interlocal Stormwater Working Group

THINK BLUE MAINE

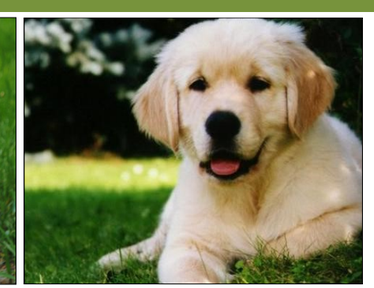
Photo credit: Marc Capellietti flickr

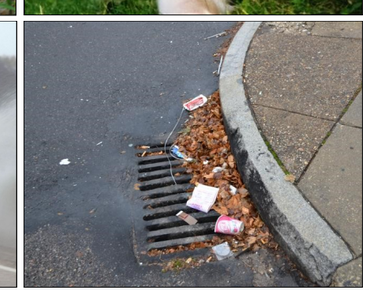
What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or melted snow) that flows over land. Stormwater can pick up pollutants as it runs off the land into lakes, streams, rivers, and the ocean; this is called polluted runoff.

Storm drains collect runoff and convey it without treatment directly into water bodies. Polluted runoff affects drinking water, human health, wildlife, and property values.

What are common stormwater pollutants?





Soil, sand, and sediments cloud the water and smother wildlife habitat.

Chemicals (fertilizer, weed & bug killers, vehicle fluids, coal tar pavement sealers, etc.), are carried with runoff and can be toxic to wildlife.

Pet waste contains bacteria that can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, and may contribute to beach closures.

Salt, which is spread on roads, sidewalks, and parking lots to melt snow and ice, dissolves in water or snowmelt. Once salt gets into our water it cannot be removed. Salt in our waterways can be toxic to wildlife.

Debris, like cigarette butts and other forms of litter, is unsightly and can harm wildlife.

Prepared by Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District | (207) 892-4700 | www.cumberlandswcd.org

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EOE

What is an MS4?

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM, or MS4, means a stormwater conveyance that is separated from sanitary sewer systems. The storm sewer system includes roads, curbs and gutters, ditches, catch basins, storm drains, outfalls, and pipes connecting these features.

Your municipality has a **CLEAN WATER ACT PERMIT** that is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that allows you to discharge runoff into water bodies if measures are taken to minimize pollution from your storm sewer system and municipal facilities and operations. This permit is referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) MS4 Permit.

Under the Federal **CLEAN WATER ACT**, *some municipalities must have a permit that allows them to direct stormwater to water bodies in their communities, provided that specific steps are taken to minimize pollution.*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE STEPS IS MANDATORY *if you are a regulated municipality.*

Who is regulated and what does it mean for Falmouth?

Municipalities, transportation agencies, public universities, prisons, military bases, and other state and federal facilities are subject to MEPDES regulation.

Regulated municipalities are determined by population density and proximity to population density, based on US Census Bureau data. The regulated municipalities in Greater Portland and Saco areas are shown on the map to the right.

As a regulated community, you are subject to:

- Full compliance with permit requirements, including six minimum steps outlined in the permit (see opposite page).
- Higher costs (operational, permitting, capital improvements, etc.) than non-regulated municipalities.
- Heightened scrutiny from Maine DEP, EPA, and environmental or citizen action groups.
- Identification and improvement of your priority water body. Falmouth's priority water body is Mill Creek.

What are the minimum steps required in the MS4 Permit?

1. Educate the public and municipal staff and officials about polluted runoff and how to reduce pollution.
2. Provide the public an opportunity to participate in Falmouth's stormwater program.
3. Identify and eliminate illegal sewer connections, dumping into storm drains, and other sources of pollution. Carry out long-term maintenance and mapping of all stormwater infrastructure.
4. Ensure that construction on both public and private property does not impact water resources.
5. Implement new development and redevelopment stormwater ordinances, and encourage developers to utilize techniques to reduce the impact of development on water resources.
6. Prevent pollution from municipal operations and facilities. Educate municipal staff about practices to reduce polluted runoff.

In addition to these minimum steps, Falmouth is also required to protect and restore polluted water bodies within your municipality.

Photo credit: Bob Travis flickr

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.

A municipality-wide effort is needed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act permit.

To meet these requirements, Falmouth must adopt increased stormwater standards applicable to:

- New development, redevelopment, and construction;
- Long-term maintenance and inspection of stormwater infrastructure;
- Preventing pollution from all municipal operations and facilities;
- Improving polluted water bodies within your municipality, with priority given to Mill Creek; and
- Raising awareness of stormwater, specifically the appropriate practices that should be used, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis to reduce polluted runoff.

MILL CREEK

Mill Creek, which flows into Mussel Cove and Casco Bay, is Falmouth's priority water body. Falmouth Route One, the commercial center of the community, partially drains to Mill Creek. In 2012, Falmouth was awarded a Maine Coastal Program grant to develop a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for Route One. This plan involves upgrades and improvements on both public and private properties to improve stormwater management.

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