

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: Justin Early, Town Engineer

- Coordinates implementation of Falmouth’s MS4 Stormwater Management Plan with all Town departments and serves as the MS4 stormwater program point of contact (POC) to DEP.
- Reviews and updates Falmouth’s Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP); performs and documents inspections.
- Creates and maintains maps of Falmouth’s stormwater infrastructure.
- Inspects and maintains all Town stormwater infrastructure.
- Implements good housekeeping measures on Town roads and rights-of-way.
- Ensures staff are trained and implementing procedures to minimize pollution, including: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and use of erosion control measures.
- Works with Planning to review site plan proposals to ensure proper stormwater control measures (SCMs) and appropriate erosion control measures are used.
- Ensures systems designed to collect and treat stormwater (on public and private property) are maintained and functioning through technical review and permitting follow-up.

Planning | Primary POC: Ethan Croce, Director

- Reviews site plans for erosion and sedimentation control practices to ensure:
 - Construction projects include 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.
- 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 public and private property are functioning properly.

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 Falmouth’s MS4 POC for DEP.

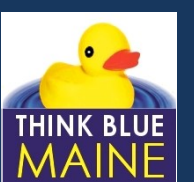


Parks & Recreation | Primary POC: Lucky D’Ascanio, Parks & Community Programs Director


School Department | Primary POC: Topper West, Facilities Director

Public Safety | Primary POC: Howard Rice, Fire Chief and John Kilbride, Police Chief

- Follows operation and maintenance plan to ensure activities and facilities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained to minimize pollution, including: proper chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and notifies Falmouth’s MS4 POC for DEP.

The **Interlocal Stormwater Working Group (ISWG)** is comprised of 14 regulated communities and 2 nested MS4s in the Greater Portland and Saco Bay areas (see map on Page 2). ISWG is coordinated by Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District and works cooperatively to meet the permit’s education requirements (steps 1 and 2) for all ISWG members.





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 carry 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, pesticides, vehicle fluids, and 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. It also contains nutrients that contribute to harmful algae blooms.

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

Debris, like cigarette butts, plastic bags, and other forms of litter, is unsightly and harms wildlife.

What is an MS4?

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM, or MS4, means a stormwater system 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.

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



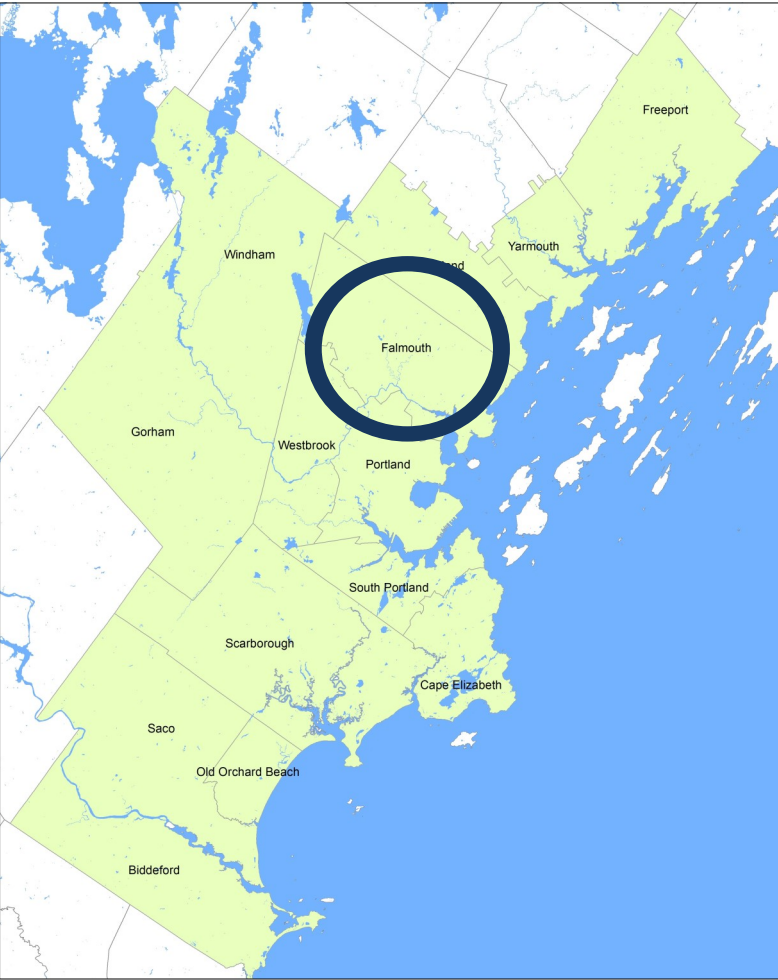
Under the Federal CLEAN WATER ACT, some municipalities must have a permit that allows them to direct stormwater to water bodies in their communities, provided that specific steps are taken to minimize pollution.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE STEPS IS MANDATORY
for regulated municipalities.

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, Falmouth is subject to:

- Full compliance with permit requirements, including six minimum steps outlined in the permit (see opposite page).
- Additional costs for operations, permitting, capital improvements, etc. compared to non-regulated municipalities.
- Heightened scrutiny from Maine DEP, EPA, and environmental or citizen action groups.
- Identification and improvement of Falmouth’s priority water body, 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 of stormwater ordinances. 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 the Town.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.
A Town-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 Falmouth, 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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