

How is York meeting these Clean Water Act requirements?

The Town of York is working hard to comply with stormwater permit requirements. Responsibilities of departments within the Town are summarized below.

Public Works Director

- Oversees inspection and maintenance of municipal stormwater infrastructure.
- Oversees creation and updating of stormwater infrastructure maps.
- Coordinates implementation of York's Stormwater Management Plan through coordination with all municipal departments and serves as the stormwater program point of contact (POC) with DEP.
- Works to eliminate possible pollution sources within the community when they are identified.
- Ensures staff are trained in proper procedures for minimizing pollution, including but not limited to: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and use of erosion control measures.
- Through technical review and permitting follow-up, ensures stormwater systems are maintained and functioning after construction is complete.

Public Works Staff

- Follow pollution prevention measures during public works projects, to ensure that municipal operations do not pollute nearby water resources.
- Use proper erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction and maintenance.
- Conduct opportunistic and regularly scheduled inspections of outfalls (through a contractor), ditches, and catch basins to assess for illicit discharges and maintenance needs.

Land Use Planner

- Ensures third party review of development sites so site plans contain all proper submittals including evaluation of Low Impact Development techniques, erosion and sedimentation control plans and post construction stormwater management plans where required.

Code Enforcement Officers

- ◆ Inspect construction projects (on both public and private property) to ensure proper erosion and sedimentation control practices are being used and pollutants are not entering the Town's MS4.
- Coordinate with Public Works Director when possible pollution sources are identified within the community.
- Inform developers or applicants of construction and post construction requirements when applicable.

Public Safety (Fire and Police)

- Follow stormwater operation and maintenance plans for their facilities to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Coordinate with Public Works when possible pollution sources are identified within the community.
- Ensure staff are trained for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.

School Department Supervisor

- Ensure staff are trained in and follow the school's stormwater operation and maintenance plans
- Coordinate with Public Works when possible pollution sources are identified within the school grounds

The **Southern Maine Stormwater Working Group (SMSWG)** is composed of five (5) MS4 communities in the Southern Maine area (see map on Page 2). SMSWG is coordinated through the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission. Integrated Environmental Engineering provides the Towns with technical services.

MS4 Stormwater Permit Fact



Photo credit: Brent Danley via 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 humans and 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.

Littered items like cigarette butts do not "disintegrate" and contain chemicals that can harm wildlife.



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 York?

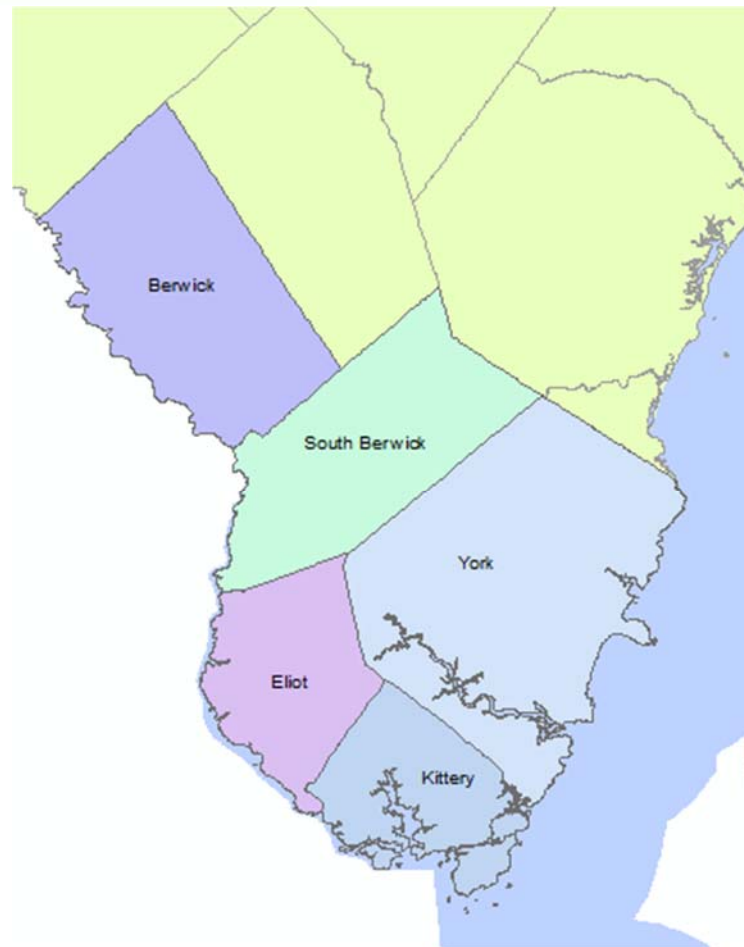
Municipalities, transportation agencies, public universities, prisons, military bases, and other state and federal facilities are subject to MEPDES regulation.

Regulated municipalities are determined by population density and proximity to population density, based on US Census Bureau data. The regulated municipalities in Southern Maine are York, Kittery, Eliot, Berwick and South Berwick.

These 5 communities coordinate to share technical services through a contract with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission.

As a regulated community, the Town is 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.



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 York'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, York is also required to protect and restore polluted water bodies within your municipality.

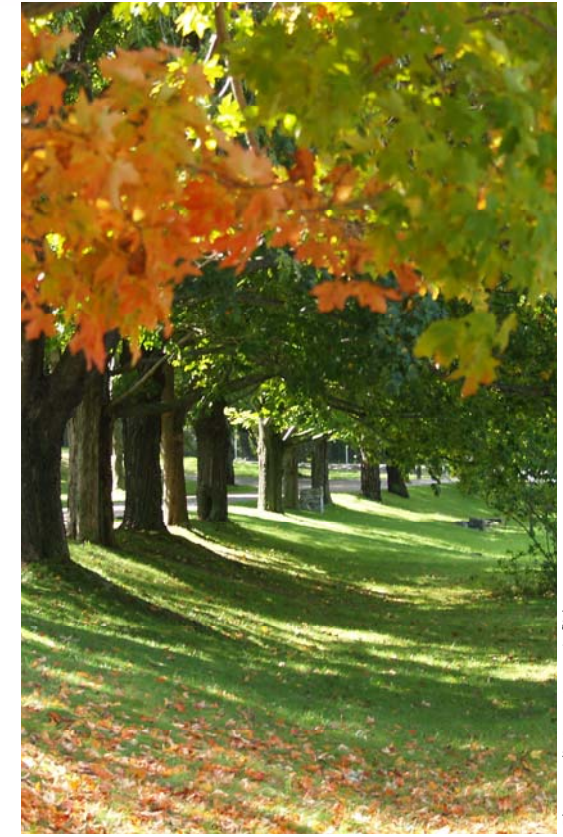


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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.

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

To meet these requirements, York 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;
- Raising awareness of stormwater, specifically the appropriate practices that should be used, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis to reduce polluted runoff.

CAPE NEDDICK RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Cape Neddick River is an important asset for the Town. It provides wonderful recreation opportunities. It also has a history of bacteria issues, which the Town has been working to address for several years. The residents of the area have formed an active group and worked with the Wells Reserve to install geese-deterrent plantings and worked with pet owners to minimize pollution of the River. Learn more at www.wellsreserve.org



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