The City of Portland is working hard to comply with stormwater permit requirements. Responsibilities of departments within Portland are summarized below.

Public Works | Primary Point of Contact: Chris Branch, Public Works Director

Water Resources Division | Primary Point of Contact: Nancy Gallinaro, Water Resources Director

• Creates and maintains up-to-date maps of all stormwater infrastructure.
• Implements stormwater service charge & credit program.
• Coordinates implementation of Portland’s Stormwater Management Plan through coordination with municipal departments and serves as the stormwater program point of contact (POC) with DEP.
• Inspects and maintains all municipal stormwater infrastructure.
• Follows pollution prevention measures at the public works facilities to ensure that municipal operations do not pollute nearby water resources.
• Uses proper erosion and sedimentation control during construction and maintenance.
• Identifies pollution sources within the community and works to eliminate them.
• 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.

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 & 2) for all ISWG members.

Planning and Urban Development | Primary Point of Contact: Barbara Baryhydt, Development Review Manager

• Reviews site plans for proper erosion and sedimentation control practices to ensure:
  • Construction projects include SCMs to avoid polluting water resources; and
  • Post-construction stormwater management controls are incorporated into development designs to help keep untreated runoff from entering Portland’s stormwater infrastructure.
  • Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development, which minimizes environmental impact from development.
  • References Portland’s non-stormwater ordinance when needed.
  • Requires that a Third-Party Inspector is included on larger projects to ensure construction and post-construction systems are designed to collect and treat stormwater on public and private property.
• Through technical review and permitting follow-up, ensures systems designed to collect and treat stormwater (on public and private property) are maintained and functioning.

Engineering | Primary Point of Contact: Keith Gray, Engineering Manager

• Works with Planning to review site plan proposals to ensure proper stormwater control measures (SCMs) and appropriate erosion control are used.

School Department | Primary Point of Contact: Steven Stilphen, Facilities Director

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

Public Safety
Primary Point of Contact: Chief Keith Gautreau, Fire and Acting Chief Vern Malloch, Police

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

DEP’s Point of Contact for Portland’s MS4 Permit is Ben Pearson, Compliance Coordinator.

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 carries 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 habitats.
- Chemicals (fertilizers, weed & bug killers (pesticides), 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. 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.
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).
- 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 your priority water body. Portland’s priority water body is Capisic Brook.

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.

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.

Who is regulated, and what does it mean for Portland?

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- Additional costs for operations, permitting, capital improvements, etc. compared to non-regulated municipalities.
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- Identification and improvement of your priority water body. Portland’s priority water body is Capisic Brook.

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 Portland’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, Portland is also required to protect and restore polluted water bodies within your municipality.

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, Portland 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 Capisic Brook; and
- Raising awareness of stormwater, specifically the appropriate practices that should be used, inspected, and maintained on a regular basis to reduce polluted runoff.

Capisic Brook

Capisic Brook is an impaired stream that flows through the west side of Portland. The City is improving water quality in Capisic Brook through extensive collaborative efforts. Working with partners, the City has developed an extensive Watershed Restoration Plan and is currently implementing a plan for landowner outreach and education within the Capisic Brook watershed.