How is South Portland meeting these Clean Water Act requirements?

The City of South Portland is working hard to comply with stormwater permit requirements. The Water Resource Protection Department administers the program and shares permit responsibilities with various municipal departments, as described below.

Water Resource Protection – Collection Systems Division  |  Primary Point of Contact: Fred Dillon, Stormwater Coordinator
Secondary Point of Contact: Dave Thomes, Collection Systems Manager

- Implement Stormwater Management Plan; serves as stormwater point of contact with DEP
- Inspects and maintains all municipal stormwater and sewage infrastructure.
- Ensures pollution prevention measures are followed at the Division’s maintenance garage to prevent polluted runoff from entering water resources.
- Ensures use of erosion and sedimentation control (ESC) measures during all construction and maintenance activities.
- Identify potential pollution sources and work to eliminate these sources with department heads.
- Train City staff to minimize pollution, including: chemical and material storage, spill prevention and clean up, and proper use of ESC measures.
- Review site plans for proper ESC measures and post-construction stormwater control measures (SCMs).
- Ensure compliance with construction and post-construction stormwater management requirements.

Public Works  |  Primary Point of Contact: Doug Howard, Director
- Ensures all publicly owned streets and parking areas are swept at least annually.
- Ensures Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) are followed at Public Works and Transfer Station to prevent polluted runoff from entering water resources.
- Ensures proper use of ESC measures during all construction and maintenance activities.
- Works with Stormwater Program Coordinator to provide training for staff to minimize pollution, including: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and use of ESC measures.
- Works with staff to identify and eliminate potential pollution sources and notifies South Portland’s MS4 POC for DEP.

School Department  |  Primary Point of Contact: Tony Lombardo, Facilities Director
- Ensures SWPPP is followed at school bus maintenance garage to prevent polluted runoff from entering water resources.
- Works with Stormwater Program Coordinator to train staff in procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.

Planning  |  Primary Point of Contact: Steve Pulju, Community Planner
- Reviews site plans for proper ESC practices to ensure:
  - Construction projects include SCM to avoid polluting water resources; and
  - Appropriate post-construction SMCs are incorporated into development designs.
- Works with inspectors to coordinate pre-construction meetings for medium-large public and private projects (>15,000 ft²) to review ESC inspection and reporting requirements.
- Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development, which minimizes environmental impacts.
- References South Portland’s Stormwater Performance Standards and Non-Stormwater Discharge ordinance.
- Works with Third Party Inspectors for larger projects (≥ 1 acre) to ensure construction and post-construction systems are designed to collect and treat stormwater from public and private properties.

Engineering  |  Primary Point of Contact: Brad Weeks, Engineering
- Ensures all municipal stormwater and sewer infrastructure maps are current and up to date.
- Oversees development of Asset Management Program to help prioritize infrastructure replacement and repair.

Code Enforcement  |  Primary Point of Contact: Matt LaCorte, Code Enforcement Officer
- Works with Engineering Inspector to ensure small-scale construction projects (e.g., single-family homes) use proper ESC.
- Enforces noncompliance incidents per City’s ordinance and state regulations (Ch. 500 and Maine Construction General Permit).

Parks & Recreation Department  |  Primary Point of Contact: Karl Coughlin, Deputy Director
- Ensures operation and maintenance (O&M) plans are implemented for all applicable facilities to ensure departmental activities do not contribute to pollution.
- Works with Stormwater Program Coordinator to ensure staff are trained in proper procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.
- Works with staff to identify and eliminate potential pollution sources and notifies South Portland’s MS4 POC for DEP.

Public Safety  |  Primary Points of Contact: Chief James Wilson, Fire and Chief Ed Googins, Police
- Ensures O&M plans are implemented for all applicable facilities to ensure departmental activities do not pollute water.
- Works with Stormwater Program Coordinator to ensure all relevant staff are trained in proper procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention and clean up.
- Works with staff to identify and eliminate potential pollution sources and notifies South Portland’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 educational requirements (steps 1 & 2) for all ISWG members.

Public Works

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.

What are common stormwater pollutants?

- Soil, sand, and sediments: cloud the water and smother wildlife habitat
- Chemicals: (fertilizer, 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 algal blooms.
- Salt: 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.

Your municipality has a **Clean Water Act Permit** that is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This permit 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. The permit is referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) MS4 Permit.

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

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. South Portland’s current priority water body is Trout 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 South 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, South 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, South 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 Trout 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.

**TROUT BROOK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Trout Brook, a small stream that flows through Cape Elizabeth and South Portland, is South Portland’s priority water body. Working with municipal and regional partners, a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was completed in 2012, and extensive efforts are underway to implement the Plan and restore the Brook.