

Water Matters to Mendon



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or drainage from irrigation flows over land, and then drains into surface water bodies and groundwater. Stormwater runoff from developed areas can be contaminated with pollutants from fertilizers, pesticides, litter, chemical spills, automobile fluids, deicing salts, pet waste and septic systems.

Runoff from developed areas is the largest pollution source responsible for the impairment of our wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds.

Clean stormwater runoff from natural areas is also an important source of recharge to the groundwater; replenishing groundwater wells and supplying base flow to lakes, ponds, springs, brooks and tributaries.



Like most communities in Massachusetts Mendon is legally required to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Phase 2 Stormwater Program. Protecting Mendon's water resources depends on everyone! Learn more by reading these stormwater summaries and following the links below.

What's In Your Yard?

Pet Waste

Dog waste left on roads and sidewalks are a significant source of bacteria in urban stormwater runoff. In 2018, 1,837 dogs were registered in Mendon. These pets contribute over 100 TONS of dog waste each year.



Most pet owners pick up and safely dispose of pet waste, but if left on the ground, it can take over a year to decompose. Here are some good resources to share with your neighbors and friends. Help get the word out!

[MassDEP Pet Waste Brochure](#)

[Pet Waste FAQ's](#)

[EPA Citizen's Guide for Clean Stormwater](#)

Car Washing



Mendon residents largely rely on automobiles for transportation from nearly 6,500 cars registered in town. Without proper maintenance, oil, grease and heavy metals from cars and trucks can contaminate stormwater runoff. Car washing can also be a source of pollution. Some simple solutions: wash the car on the lawn, use a non-phosphorous detergent, or visit a carwash that recycles the wash water, and regularly maintain your vehicle.

[Oil Spill Awareness](#)

[MassDEP Car Wash](#)

Lawn Fertilizer



Lawns are a source of pride to many homeowners, but they are also a source of nutrients and pesticides in urban stormwater runoff. Mendon has over 6,500 residential units and over 22 acres of manicured lawn. Mendon residents and landlords can help minimize environmental impacts from lawns!

[Keep the Lawn Green and the Water Blue](#)

[MassDEP Lawn Care Brochure](#)

Working to Protect Water

Mendon is a great place to live for over 6,000 people, and a great place to work. The majority of businesses are small in Mendon, however commercial and industrial businesses may contribute to urban stormwater pollution from storage of vehicles, hazardous material storage and disposal, trash disposal and snow and ice control practices.

Certain businesses with specific pollution potential risks are required to obtain a stormwater permit known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Industrial Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit, and must develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). All businesses can protect the environment by using commercial and industrial best management practices to control stormwater runoff and minimize pollution. Here are some references to start the conversation at your work.

[Automotive Industries](#)

[General Businesses](#)

[Restaurants](#)

What is the Concern for Construction?

Construction projects are a sign of a strong economy. No matter the project size, construction projects can impact the environment. Demolition and earthmoving, operation of equipment and vehicles, as well as construction materials on the site may result in contaminated stormwater flow including sediment, debris and chemicals. Erosion and sedimentation from construction sites impact aquatic habitat by increasing turbidity and adding nutrients and pathogens to the water.

State and local laws to guard against erosion and sedimentation are in place for large projects, but careful construction practices are important on all building sites.

[Construction Industry Erosion Control Poster](#)



There's Lots More to Learn!

See what local communities are doing:

[Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition](#)

[Think Again, Think Blue Massachusetts](#)

Learn about sustainable water management initiatives:

[Water Blues Project](#)

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