Maine municipalities work hard to maintain drainage systems and comply with stormwater permit requirements. The following outlines responsibilities of departments within Maine’s regulated cities and towns.

Public Works and/or Water Resources Departments
- Inspects, maintains and repairs all municipal stormwater drainage infrastructure, including open drainage and publicly-owned stormwater treatment systems.
- Implements pollution prevention measures at all municipal facilities to ensure that operations do not pollute water resources.
- Uses erosion and sedimentation control during construction & maintenance.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community and works to eliminate these sources.
- Ensures staff are trained in procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage, spill prevention and clean up, and erosion control.
- Finds and eliminates leaking sanitary sewer pipes.
- Creates and maintains up-to-date maps and data on all municipal stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Planning and Code Enforcement
- Reviews proposed development to ensure:
  - Construction projects include effective erosion and sediment control practices and structures; and
  - Requires design and implementation of permanent stormwater control systems to reduce untreated runoff from leaving the development project.
- Encourages developers to use Low Impact Development, which minimizes environmental impact by mimicking natural landscape conditions.
- Requires Inspections and/or Third-Party Inspectors be utilized on larger projects to ensure proper protection of water resources.
- Issues Notice of Violations or Stop Work Orders as needed to enforce ordinances.
- Identifies possible pollution sources within the community.

Parks & Recreation, Public Safety, and other municipal departments
- Implements pollution prevention practices for their facilities to ensure activities do not pollute water resources.
- Ensures staff are trained in procedures for minimizing pollution, including: chemical storage and spill prevention & clean up.
- Implements Integrated Pest Management and best practices for fertilizer and chemical use to reduce impacts on water resources.

How do municipalities meet these Clean Water Act requirements?

This infrastructure provides drainage that protects roads and the built environment from failure and flooding.

Adequately sized drainage systems are a critical utility for new development and urban expansion.

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the greatest modern water pollution control challenges and an important responsibility for Maine’s municipalities. Drainage systems require periodic repair and replacement to continue to function effectively. In the face of changing frequency and higher intensity storms, drainage systems will be even more critical to our future economy and growth by alleviating flood risks.

What is stormwater runoff?
- Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or melted snow) that flows over land.
- Storm drains collect runoff and convey it without treatment directly into water bodies. Polluted runoff affects drinking water, human health, wildlife, and property values.

Why are stormwater drainage systems important?
- This infrastructure provides drainage that protects roads and the built environment from failure and flooding.
- Adequately sized drainage systems are a critical utility for new development and urban expansion.

Why is our work important?
- Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the greatest modern water pollution control challenges and an important responsibility for Maine’s municipalities. Drainage systems require periodic repair and replacement to continue to function effectively. In the face of changing frequency and higher intensity storms, drainage systems will be even more critical to our future economy and growth by alleviating flood risks.

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, storm drains, outfalls, and pipes connecting these features.
- 30 municipalities in Maine have a CLEAN WATER ACT PERMIT that is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The permit allows the discharge of runoff into water bodies if measures are taken to minimize pollution from this runoff. This permit is referred to as the Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) 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.
Municipalities, transportation agencies, public universities, prisons, military bases, and other state and federal facilities are subject to MPDES regulation. Regulated municipalities are determined by population density and proximity to population density, based on US Census Bureau data. The regulated municipalities in Maine are listed to the right.

Regulated municipalities are 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.
- Identification and improvement of priority water bodies.

Consequences for failure to comply with the MS4 permit.
- Notice of Violation, fines, or other penalties
- Consent Order
- Prosecution
- Permit Termination or Revocation
- Permit Modification
- Stricter permit limits
- Denial of Permit Renewal

...and most importantly - jeopardized Public Health, Safety and Environment!

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

What are common stormwater pollutants?

Implement public education programs to help the community understand its role in keeping water clean.

Engage the public in decision-making throughout the program.

Find and fix leaky or unauthorized sanitary sewer lines that might be connected to the drainage system.

Ensure that construction projects do not pollute runoff with sediments and debris.

Ensure that new development and redevelopment control and treat runoff before it leaves the project site.

Engage in municipal roadway best practices such as cleaning drainage systems, sweeping streets, and ensuring municipal activities like vehicle washing and lawn maintenance do not contribute to pollution.

In addition to these minimum steps, cities and towns are also required to protect and restore polluted water bodies within their municipality.

Regulated municipalities are subject to:

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?

What are the minimum requirements in the MS4 Permit?

Who is regulated, and what does it mean?

Enforcement Action

Permit Termination or Revocation

What are common stormwater pollutants?