



## Information about the MS4 General Permit

### What is Stormwater runoff?

Stormwater is the collection of surface water produced from precipitation events such as rain or snow. Stormwater runoff occurs when the rain or snow melt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and paved roadways prevent the stormwater from being absorbed into the ground. As a result, the stormwater continues to travel along the surface, gathering up debris, chemicals, and other pollutants along the way until the liquid reaches a stormwater drainage system or a natural body of water such as a river, lake, pond, and/or stream.

### What is the MS4 General Permit?

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is a stormwater conveyance system separated from sanitary sewer systems and owned by the state, city or town. Such systems include road ways, curbs and gutters, storm drains, catch basins, outfalls and pipes. Eliot is subject to (keep a Clean Water Act Permit) MS4 General Permit, which is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The permit is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the Town's regulated, separated storm drain system, to protect water quality, and satisfy appropriate requirements of the Clean Water Act.

### The Maine MS4 General Permit:

- Applies to the Urbanized Area of the town, determined by the U.S Census Department
- Requires a Five-Year Stormwater Program Management Plan to educate the public about stormwater issues to raise awareness and encourage the protection of stormwater with a focus on more sustainable yardscaping behaviors ([www.yardscaping.org](http://www.yardscaping.org)).
- Implement good practices at all municipal operations where stormwater can become polluted.
- Conduct programs such as stream cleanups, storm drain stenciling, or attendance at workshops.
- Conduct inspections at construction sites for sediment and erosion control whenever a site disturbs more than one (1) acre of land.

- Maintain a map of the stormwater drain systems of the town and use it to conduct inspections for signs of illicit discharges, and then correct them.
- Prepare annual reports documenting all this information and provide it to the Maine DEP annually.

### Consequences for failure to comply with the MS4 General Permit:

- Notice of Violation, fines or other penalties
- Consent Order
- Prosecution
- Permit Modification
- Stricter Permit Limits
- Denial of Permit Renewal

### What happens after this permit expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018?

The Maine DEP will issue another state-wide 5-year permit that will be effective from 7/1/2018 until 6/30/2023. The Town's consultant has been monitoring and working with Town Staff and other communities to review the draft permit, and to provide comments to help minimize the cost to the Town. In drafting the next MS4 General Permit, the Maine DEP has been holding stakeholder meetings, and is balancing comments from the USEPA, Not for profit environmental organizations such as Friends of Casco Bay and Conservation Law Foundation, and the 30 municipalities that are also regulated by this Permit. The next permit will have different requirements, and by Federal Law, the DEP is not allowed to relax any of the requirements that have previously been imposed.

### Where to go for more information:

The following people are happy to answer questions about the MS4 General Permit in your town, and can be contacted for more information:

[Steve Robinson](#) – Public Works Director

[Sara Castellez](#) – Public Works Assistant

[Jeff Brubaker, AICP](#) – Planner

[Shelly Bishop](#) – Code Enforcement Officer

[Kearsten Metz](#) – Land Use Assistant

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