

Community Actions to reduce water quality impacts of storm water

Ensure effectiveness of your town commissions

- Know the roles and responsibilities of local officials and commissions.
- Establish a water resources advisory committee to coordinate communication across commissions.
- Establish a conservation commission separate from inland wetlands (if now combined) to facilitate conservation planning.
- Stay informed about key issues by attending workshops and reading educational materials.

Protect priority natural resources commissions

- Initiate comprehensive planning.
- Conduct a natural resource inventory.
- Prioritize areas for protection.
- Avoid development in sensitive watershed and aquifer areas.
- Develop plans of action, such as a watershed management plan & an open space plan.
- Revise zoning and subdivision regulations (land use controls) to support town plans.
- Review town maintenance procedures.

Incorporate design objectives into your regulations that will protect water quality, and look for them in site plan review commissions

- Retain the natural landscape (vegetation, contours and natural drainage).
- Reduce impervious surfaces: parking roads, sidewalks, driveways, compacted earth
- Emphasize on-site drainage for treated stormwater.
- Encourage riparian buffers to protect wetlands and waterways.
- Require proper septic system placement, design and maintenance.
- Require that plans include stormwater management plans.
- Keep watershed maps on hand for determining where proposed developments are within your watersheds.

Encourage or require, and enforce use of a variety of best management practices (BMPs)

- Require stormwater best management practices and ensure their maintenance.
- Encourage/require management plans for parks, golf courses & agricultural operations.
- Enforce erosion control for logging, construction and agricultural activities.
- Conduct regular street and storm drain cleaning.
- Support and enforce maintenance, such as vacuuming pavement and cleaning out stormwater control structures.
- Consider pet waste disposal ordinances.
- Educate and support your citizens on pollution prevention.

Support restoration efforts and encourage redevelopment

- Support restoration efforts where feasible.
- Strive to “infill” in developed areas rather than increase sprawl.
- Improve existing site design when opportunities arise.
- Require BMP retrofits during redevelopment.

And more. . .

- Help organize special events, such as lake days and stream outings.
- Sponsor workshops for target audiences such as developers, contractors and public works departments.
- Support school programs that focus on natural resources.
- Support studies of natural resources to learn more about your town’s unique resources.

For more information on stormwater see www.extension.usu.edu/waterquality

