

Municipality/Organization: Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

EPA NPDES Permit Number: MAR041158

MassDEP Transmittal Number: W-036325

Annual Report Number Year 6
& Reporting Period: April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report (Due: May 1, 2009)

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: Jack Perreault

Title: Town Engineer

Telephone #: 508-841-8502

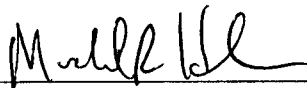
Email: jperreau@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us

Mailing Address: Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building, 100 Maple Avenue,
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: _____



Printed Name: Michael Hale

Title: Assistant Town Manager

Date: April 28, 2009

Part II. Self-Assessment

The Town has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that our municipality is in compliance with all permit conditions.

Current State of the Phase II Program in Shrewsbury:

The Town currently budgets \$5,000 per year for the Phase II Program. This cost does not include money used for catch basin cleaning and street sweeping, which is currently budgeted separately with the Town Highway Department. It also does not include funds used for reviews, inspections, research, and reporting for compliance with the permit conditions. Those funds are part of the Engineering Department Budget. Occasionally funds have been made available for the Phase II Program from other sources within town budget areas as well.

The Town continues to use the GPS equipment to survey the entire drainage system, including outfalls. The Town is currently visually inspecting outfalls for illicit connections while performing the survey of the system. The Town has a stormwater map with outfall and catch basin locations that the Town has been using for years prior to the Phase II regulations as well. As-built drawings for stormwater utilities are also available in the Town Engineering Department. The Town will continue to expand the stormwater mapping with GIS as funding becomes available.

Considerable time was invested in the research of regulations to supplement the existing Stormwater Management Bylaw. All of this work was done with in-house staff from the Engineering Department, Highway Department, and the Town Manager's Office. The potential fiscal impact of the next Phase II Permit was also considered. It is apparent that the projected costs can not be covered within the existing Town budget and a new revenue source such as a stormwater fee will be needed. Final action on the regulations will come after the new permit is issued and the impacts are fully understood.

For residential subdivision projects submitted to the Town Planning Board and Conservation Commission, we continue to require groundwater recharge for each lot reviewed where soil conditions are suitable. A typical example would be a drywell to recharge roof runoff from a single family home. This helps control post-construction storm water runoff, provides a broader recharge area, and often provides recharge volumes above and beyond what is required by the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Policy.

In years past, the Town had not allowed the use of hydrodynamic storm water separator units for public drainage projects due to maintenance concerns. After meeting with manufacturers and reviewing maintenance guidelines, the Town, during permit year three, started approving the usage of those storm water BMP's for public projects and private projects that will become public, such as subdivision roadways. The Town continues its policy to encourage the use of innovative storm water BMP's for private projects as well.

For permit years beyond year six, the Town will focus on three major components of the Phase II program – enforcement of the Stormwater By-Law, illicit connections detention and elimination, and the GIS mapping of stormwater outfalls.

Part III. Summary of Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

1a. Additions

01	Pamhlet Mailings	Water and Sewer	# Pamphlets Mailed	Four pamphlets mailed to Approximately 11,000 subscribers of Municipal water/sewer utilities	

2. Public Involvement and Participation

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
Revised					
04 Revised	Water Monitoring & Sampling	Health Dept.	Sample Data	Samples for E Coli and Total Coliform Bacteria were taken on a weekly basis During the bathing season in Lake Quinsigamond	
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

2a. Additions

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
05	Local Ordinance	Engineering Dept.	Bylaw Adopted	Local Bylaw adopted at Annual Town Meeting in May 2007. Began development of regulations to supplement the bylaw.	
Revised					
06	Storm Sewer Map	Engineering Dept.	GIS Map	GIS Map currently under production for entire town. In the meantime, the Town has a map showing drainage catch basins and outfall location from data obtained by visual observation and as-built plans	
Revised					
07				Highway Department continued to monitor drainage utilities during annual maintenance.	
Revised	Public Employee Education	Engineering Dept.	Training implemented Prior to Phase II Program		
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

3a. Additions

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
05 Revised	Local Ordinance	Engineering Dept.	Bylaw Adopted	Local Bylaw adopted at Annual Town Meeting in May 2007. Began development of regulations to supplement bylaw	
08 Revised	Mass. Stormwater Policy	Engineering Dept.	# Projects Reviewed	5 Projects submitted to the Conservation Commission and/or Planning Board. Staff attended D.E.P. Workshop	
09 Revised	Site Plan Reviews	Engineering Dept.	Bylaw Adopted	Local Bylaw adopted at Annual Town Meeting in May 2007. Began development of regulations to supplement the bylaw	
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

4a. Additions

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
05 Revised	Local Ordinance	Engineering Dept.	Bylaw Adopted	Local Bylaw adopted at Annual Town Meeting in May 2007. Began development of regulations to supplement the bylaw.	
08 Revised	Mass. Stormwater Policy	Engineering Dept.	# Projects reviewed	5 projects submitted to the Conservation Commission and/or Planning Board. Staff attended D.E.P. workshop	
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

5a. Additions

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping in Municipal Operations

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
10	Catch Basin Cleaning	Highway Dept.	Catch Basins Cleaned	Catch Basins were cleaned.	
Revised					
11	Highway and Light Dept. Garage	Engineering Dept.	# Inspections	Two Inspections were done at the Light Dept., Highway Dept., and Water/Sewer Dept. garage facilities.	
Revised					
12	Street Sweeping	Highway Dept.	Streets Swept	All municipal streets were swept.	
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

6a. Additions

7. BMPs for Meeting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Waste Load Allocations (WLA) <<if applicable>>

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year 4 (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities – Permit Year 5
05 Revised	Local Ordinance	Engineering Dept.	Bylaw Adopted	Local Bylaw adopted at Annual Town Meeting in May 2007. Began development of regulations to supplement the bylaw	
08 Revised	Mass. Stormwater Policy	Engineering Dept.	# Projects reviewed	5 Projects submitted to the Conservation Commission and/or Planning Board.	
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					
Revised					

7a. Additions

7b. WLA Assessment

During Year 6 – The Town is waiting for the new Phase II permit to be issued and will make plans at that time.

Part IV. Summary of Information Collected and Analyzed

Water samples were tested weekly during the bathing season at Sunset Beach for E. Coli and Total Coliform Levels.

2008 Water Use Restrictions

The Board of Selectmen is implementing the following water use restrictions as of May 12, 2008, to ensure an adequate supply of water to all residents.



Outdoor Use of Water Restriction:

Based upon the street address number as follows:

- Even numbered addresses may use water outdoors: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
- Odd numbered addresses may use water outdoors: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
- No outdoor use of water on Monday

All water users should conserve water whenever possible and observe the above water restriction.

When water conservation is imperative due to prolonged periods of dry weather, a **Water Wise alert will appear on the Town of Shrewsbury website** as shown below:



Residents should cease all nonessential use of water immediately if they see the Water Wise alert has been triggered.

Concerned About Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water?

Several recent articles in local newspapers discussed the potential for pharmaceuticals to appear in municipal drinking water systems. While Shrewsbury has not experienced this problem, small amounts of prescription medications and over the counter medications have been found in drinking water systems in many locations in the United States.

Laboratory testing in other parts of the country has confirmed more than 100 different pharmaceuticals in surface waters. The drinking water tested had trace amounts of antibiotics, anti-seizure medications, mood stabilizers, hormones and other pharmaceuticals. Waste water treatment plants were designed to remove disease causing microbes and pathogens from water. They are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals. The federal regulations on drinking water do not require testing for medications but we should all do what we can to reduce this problem.

Do not flush any medications down the drain. The only safe method of disposing of unwanted medications is to put them in the trash. Trash picked up at the curb in Shrewsbury is burned at high temperatures at Wheelabrator Millbury, a Resource Recovery Facility which captures the energy generated from burning trash to produce electricity. Incineration destroys the potential for medications to contaminate our drinking water.



All unwanted pharmaceuticals, prescription medications and over the counter medications should be disposed of in the trash, not flushed down the toilet or sink.

Conserving Water at Home: Spring Gardening Tips

Wise use of water for garden and lawn watering not only helps protect the environment, but saves money and provides for optimum growing conditions. Simple ways of reducing the amount of water used for irrigation include **mulching, adding water-retaining organic matter to the soil (such as peat or manure), and installing bushes or fences to slow winds.** These are all techniques that will help reduce water loss from evaporation.

Watering in the early morning before the sun is intense helps reduce the water lost through evaporation. Installing rain gutters and **collecting water from downspouts** also helps reduce water use. Rain barrels are an easy way to capture downspout runoff that can be used at a later time to water your garden.

Using a soaker hose to water can help reduce water loss and meet the needs of plants. With a soaker hose, very small amounts of water are supplied to the base of a plant. Since the water is applied directly to the soil, rather than onto the plant, evaporation from leaf surfaces is reduced. The water is also placed where it will do the most good, rather than being sprayed over the entire garden.



When planning a garden, choose plants that are drought-tolerant. Plants adapted to dry conditions have developed numerous mechanisms for reducing water loss. See sidebar for a list of drought-tolerant plant varieties appropriate for use in New England.

SUGGESTED PLANTS FOR USE IN NEW ENGLAND GARDENS

Annuals: Phlox, coreopsis, cape marigold, cornflower, four-o'clocks, larkspur, morning glory, portulaca, sunflower, zinnia.



Perennials: Alyssum, aster, baby's breath, baptisia, blanket flower, blazing star, butterfly weed, some varieties of campanula, chamomile, columbine, inula, mallow, poppy, snow in summer.

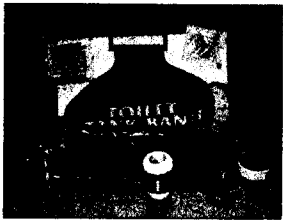
Shrubs: Bayberry, juniper, rugosa rose, fragrant sumac.

Water Conservation Kits For Sale

- **Where:** Shrewsbury Water Dept. Office, Shrewsbury Town Hall
- **Hours:** 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday
- **Cost:** \$3.00 per kit.

Indoor and outdoor water conservation kits are now on sale at the Water Department at the Shrewsbury Town Hall for \$3.00 per kit.

The cost of these kits is subsidized by the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project, and all money taken in from the sale of these kits goes back into the fund to continue the program.



Indoor kit (shown above) includes one low-flow shower head, three sink aerators, one package of leak detection dye tablets, one toilet tank displacement bag, one toilet fill cycle diverter, one roll of Teflon tape, one shower flow meter, and one drip gauge.

Outdoor kit includes two hose connectors to reseal and eliminate leaks on garden hoses, one soil moisture meter probe (shown at right), and one rain gauge.



Kits for Shrewsbury residents only.

Community Programs

Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project presented "Mr. Raindrop's Water Cycle Terrarium," a hands-on water conservation program, at Shrewsbury Public Library over February vacation.

Twenty-five Shrewsbury children, ranging from kindergarten through 4th grade, learned about the water cycle and how a rising population impacts drinking water resources. Each participant created a living terrarium as a daily reminder of the water cycle at work.

This program was such a success that SWCP was asked to present it to a group of 14 Brownie Girl Scouts working to earn their "Water Everywhere" Try-Its badge the following week.

Upcoming Event – Biodiversity Day

Friday June 6, 2008 – Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project will be working with all Floral Street School 3rd graders on water conservation. Join us in the evening for the Floral Biodiversity Fair, where residents can learn about easy ways to "go green."

**How Much Water Should My Family Use?
How 65 gallons per person per day translates to your water bill.**

Water conservation is important for a number of reasons. It's good for the environment, it's good for our community, and it saves money. Another reason to conserve water is to meet the state-set goal of a maximum water use of 65 gallons of water per person per day.

Most residents have a hard time making the conversion from gallons of water used per quarter to gallons per person per day. To make it easier to judge just how much water your family is using per person each day, we are providing the following quick-reference guide.

If your family's quarterly water use is higher than the target numbers listed below, your household needs to make a greater effort to conserve water.



Target Quarterly Residential Water Use by Household Size

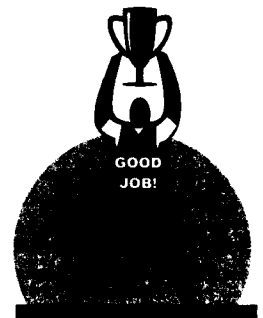
Number of Members in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Target Quarterly Water Use (in gallons)	5,931	11,862	17,793	23,724	29,655	35,586	41,517	47,448

If your family's quarterly water usage is equal to or lower than the target numbers in the chart above, keep up the good work! You are doing your part to conserve water at home, and your family meets or beats the state's 65 gallons per person per day water use goal.

Each year the gallons of water used per person per day is calculated for the town as a whole, so it's important that you spread the word to your neighbors and friends about how your family is able to help the community meet this goal. Don't be afraid to offer tips and suggestions about how others can do a better job of conserving Shrewsbury's number-one natural resource.... water.

Check out the following websites for water-saving tips that you can share:

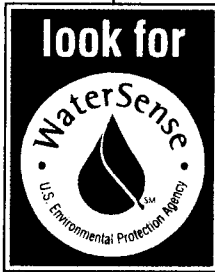
- Water Sense: www.epa.gov/watersense
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard
- Earth 911: www.earth911.org/water/water-conservation
- Water Use it Wisely: www.wateruseitwisely.com
- American Evergreen Foundation: www.usagreen.org/waterConservation.html
- H2O House: www.h2ouse.org



WaterSense Faucet Giveaway Program

WaterSense faucets are now available in retail stores around the country. These faucets are high-performing, water-efficient fixtures.

If every household in America installed a WaterSense labeled faucet, we could save more than 60 billion gallons of water annually.



A WaterSense bathroom sink faucet will help you reduce water use in your home and save money on water bills.

The Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project will be giving away 100+ WaterSense certified bathroom faucets in October 2008.

More details on the faucet giveaway will be available on the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project website in September: shrewsbury-ma.gov/swcp

Visit our booth at the Spirit of Shrewsbury Oak Street Expo on Saturday, September 27 for more information and to receive a free water conservation device* courtesy of MassDEP.

This program is made possible in part by a Water Conservation grant from MassDEP.

*Water conservation devices available while supplies last - Shrewsbury residents only.

New Water & Sewer Rates Effective April 30th First Bill to Include New Rates Will be Issued in September

New water and sewer rates are in effect for service provided after April 30, 2008. These new rates will be applied in bills issued this September. The rates were last increased in May of 2006. This most recent increase is necessary to fund ongoing operations and planned capital improvements.

The new rates also reflect the Town's commitment to water conservation by issuing the steepest rate increases to the highest volume users. Reduced water usage both inside and outside the home benefits everyone, ensuring adequate supplies for the future and keeping the Town within the State's permit requirements for water withdrawals.

Currently, the average residential home in Shrewsbury uses approximately 17,000 gallons per quarter. The average water bill of 17,000 gallons per quarter will see a cost increase of approximately 13% under the new rate structure.

A "Target Quarterly Residential Water Use" table is provided on the back page of this newsletter to help residents convert the "65 gallons per person per day" water use goal set by the state to their actual quarterly household water use.

Town of Shrewsbury Water Rates Effective April 30, 2008	
Residential & Condominiums	Rate
Minimum - 0 to 5,000 Gallons	\$19.00
5,001 to 25,000 Gallons	\$3.20/1,000 gal
25,001 to 50,000 Gallons	\$6.00/1,000 gal
Over 50,001 Gallons	\$7.75/1,000 gal
Commercial	Rate
Minimum - 0 to 5,000 Gallons	\$32.50
5,001 to 50,000 Gallons	\$2.50/1,000 gal
Over 50,001 Gallons	\$3.50/1,000 gal
Apartments	Rate
Flat Rate	\$4.00/1,000 gal

Town of Shrewsbury Sewer Rates Effective April 30, 2008	
Residential & Condominiums	Rate
Base Rate	\$25.00
Rate Per Thousand	\$3.50/1,000 gal
Commercial, Industrial and Apartments	Rate
Base Rate	\$25.00
Rate Per Thousand	\$4.50/1,000 gal

Example of 17,000 gal. bill at new rate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Water} - 17,000 \text{ gal} &= \$57.40 \\ + \text{Sewer} - 17,000 \text{ gal} &= \$84.50 \\ \hline \text{Total Quarterly Bill} &= \$141.90 \end{aligned}$$

Test Your WaterSense!

Think you know everything there is to know about water? Test your knowledge of water use behaviors and common water saving opportunities with these questions from the EPA's WaterSense website. To take the online quiz visit www.epa.gov/watersense/quiz.

1. How much water can you save each day by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth?

- A. Up to 2 gal.
- B. Up to 4 gal.
- C. Up to 8 gal.
- D. Up to 6 gal.



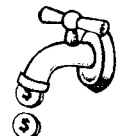
2. From 1950 to 2000, the US population grew 89%. How much has water use grown during that time?

- A. 200%
- B. 50%
- C. 100%
- D. 20%



3. Easily corrected household leaks account for what percentage of the average water bill?

- A. 2%
- B. 4%
- C. 6%
- D. 8%



2008 Water Use Restrictions

The Board of Selectmen is implementing the following water use restrictions as of May 12, 2008, to ensure an adequate supply of water to all residents.



Outdoor Use of Water Restriction:

Based upon the street address number as follows:

- Even numbered addresses may use water outdoors: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
- Odd numbered addresses may use water outdoors: Wednesday, Friday and Sunday
- No outdoor use of water on Monday

Water Wise Alert

All water users should conserve water whenever possible and observe the above water restriction.

When water conservation is imperative due to prolonged periods of dry weather, a **Water Wise alert will appear on the Town of Shrewsbury website** as shown below:



Residents should cease all nonessential use of water immediately if they see the Water Wise alert has been triggered.

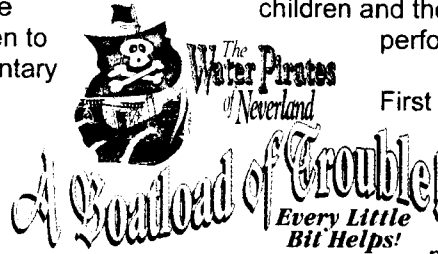
SHREWSBURY WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Shrewsbury K-4 students received a visit from the National Theatre for Children during the week of April 28 through May 2.

The NTC presented 14 live shows at seven schools over the course of a week, reaching approximately 2,500 students and teachers.

The Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project was able to bring the National Theatre for Children to all public and private elementary schools in the town of Shrewsbury thanks in part to a MassDEP Water Conservation Grant.

The program was a success, and left both the children and their teachers discussing the performance long after it was over.



First Grade Teacher Jennifer Lotane from Coolidge School said:

The NTC program, *Water Pirates of Neverland: A Boatload of Trouble*, taught kids about the importance of conserving water, and provided tips on how to save water at school and at home.

It always amazes me that live theater can do in 30 minutes what I sometimes can't do in 6 weeks – help students retain important information! It was great to hear a student say to another as he ran water in the sink, "What did we just learn about water?"

Floral Street School 3rd Graders Create Water Conservation PSAs to Run on SELCO Cable Channels

On Friday June 6th, the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project, along with Mr. Raindrop, attended Floral Street School's annual "Go Green Day." SWCP and SELCO worked with all Floral Street School 3rd grade students to produce four water and energy conservation public service announcements to run on 14 different SELCO cable channels.



In addition to being available for free on SELCO's video on demand service (**Shrewsbury → Educational → Floral Cons. Ads**), the 30-second PSAs can be seen on the following channels throughout the summer months:

No.	Channel Name
12	The Weather Channel
36	ESPN
40	MSNBC
45	HGTV
47	A&E
48	CNN
53	USA

No.	Channel Name
55	Nickelodeon
56	Lifetime
59	MTV
61	TNT
62	TBS
66	NESN
70	ABC Family

Special thanks to all the Floral Street School 3rd grade students who worked so hard on this project, and to Floral Street teacher Kara Frankian for organizing the "Go Green" event.

Where Does Your Household Rank?

If your family's quarterly water use is higher than the target numbers listed below, your household needs to make a greater effort to conserve water.

Target Quarterly Residential Water Use								
No. of People in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Target Quarterly Water Use (in gallons)	5,931	11,862	17,793	23,724	29,655	35,586	41,517	47,448

If your family's quarterly water usage is equal to or lower than the target numbers in the chart above, keep up the good work! You are doing your part to conserve water at home, and your family meets or beats the state's 65 gallons per person per day water use goal.

Water & Sewer Project Updates

Boston Turnpike

As part of the Boston Turnpike reconstruction project, approximately 4,500 linear feet of 6" water main was replaced with larger 12" piping.

This upgrade will significantly increase transmission capacity to our Oak Street booster.

The piping in the area from Dewey Road easterly to the Maple Avenue intersection had piping that was originally installed in the 1920s.

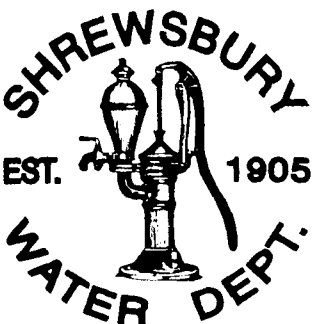
Also replaced in this area was sewer force main piping of approximately 3,000 linear feet for our Harvey Place and Rolfe Avenue sewer stations.

Hartford Turnpike

Water work has also been completed in the Hartford Turnpike section of town.

A new loop has been completed connecting Lake Street with Grafton Street.

An older section between Lake Street and the bridgeway has also been replaced with new 12" piping.



WaterSense Faucet Giveaway Program Extended Entries Must Be Received by January 15, 2009

The Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project and MassDEP will be giving away more than 150 FREE WaterSense labeled faucets to Shrewsbury residents.

These faucets have been certified to meet WaterSense criteria, which means you can expect exceptional performance while reducing your water use.

By installing WaterSense labeled bathroom sink faucets, an average household can save more than 500 gallons each year. Also, since these water savings will reduce demands on water heaters, households will also save energy.

Older faucets can have a flow rate of 3 to 7 gallons per minute, but WaterSense labeled faucets have a flow rate of just 1.5 gallons per minute - that means they use 50% to 79% LESS water on average!

WaterSense Faucet Giveaway Fast Facts

- **Model:** American Standard Colony Soft
 - Two Lever Handles
 - Centerset
 - Quick-Connect Popup Drain
 - Chrome Finish
- **Size:** Standard 4" Spread
- **Estimated List Price:** \$77-\$107
- **Water Flow:** 1.5 gpm



Winners will be drawn on January 16, 2009 and notified via mail. Winners must pick their faucets up at the Water Dept. by the date indicated on the notification letter. All installations and inspections must be completed by March 15, 2009.

This program is funded in part by a water conservation grant from MassDEP.

Visit www.Shrewsbury-MA.gov/swcp for details and to enter.

REMINDER: New Water & Sewer Rates Now In Effect

New water and sewer rates are in effect for service provided after April 30, 2008. These new rates are in effect for bills currently being issued. The rates were last increased in May of 2006. This most recent increase is necessary to fund ongoing operations and planned capital improvements.

Town of Shrewsbury Residential Water Rates Effective April 30, 2008	
Minimum - 0 to 5,000 Gallons	\$19.00
5,001 to 25,000 Gallons	\$3.20/1,000 gal
25,001 to 50,000 Gallons	\$6.00/1,000 gal
Over 50,001 Gallons	\$7.75/1,000 gal

Town of Shrewsbury Residential Sewer Rates Effective April 30, 2008	
Residential & Condominiums	Rate
Base Rate	\$25.00
Rate Per Thousand	\$3.50/1,000 gal

Test Your WaterSense

Think you know everything there is to know about water? Test your knowledge of water use behaviors and common water saving opportunities with these questions from the EPA's WaterSense website.

1. How much of the water on earth is available for people's everyday use?



- A. More than 50%
- B. 28%
- C. Less than 1%
- D. 12%

2. In the average household, which of the following wastes the MOST water per day?

- A. Running the tap while washing dishes
- B. Using a garbage disposal
- C. A leaky toilet
- D. Long showers

3. How much water is saved per flush with a high-efficiency toilet?



- A. 0.6-1.9 gal.
- B. 2.2-5.7 gal.
- C. More than 6 gal.

4. High-efficiency washing machines save about how much water per load compared to traditional models?

- A. 2-5 gallons
- B. 7-10 gallons
- C. 11-13 gallons
- D. 14 gallons or more

1C; 2C; 3B; 4D

Spirit of Shrewsbury a Success

The Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project once again sponsored a booth at the Spirit of Shrewsbury Oak Street Expo on Saturday, September 27.

The event was a success despite the rainy weather. SWCP was able to provide residents with various water conservation devices at no charge thanks to a MassDEP waste reduction grant received through the Health Department.

In addition various water-themed giveaway items were provided at no charge to residents through a MassDEP water conservation grant.

Rain Barrels Coming in 2009!

Because of continuing requests from residents for discounted rain barrels, the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project has decided to offer the program again in 2009.

Although specific dates have yet to be set, residents can look for complete information about the 2009 Rain Barrel program in the first-quarter 2009 *Water Works* newsletter.

Typically the pickup date is scheduled for April or May, and all orders must be received at least one week prior to the pickup date. More information will not be available until January.

Mr. Raindrop's "Edible Aquifer" for Grades 5-8 School Vacation Week @ Shrewsbury Public Library

What: Mr. Raindrop's "Edible Aquifer" – Educational Ice Cream!

When: Tuesday, December 30, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM

Where: Shrewsbury Public Library

Cost: FREE! Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Stop by the Library or call 508-842-0081 x-3 to sign up!

Mr. Raindrop's "Edible Aquifer" is a fun, hands-on activity that will teach middle school students about the need for water conservation through the use of ice cream, soda and candy! Each participant will create their own "edible aquifer" and learn some simple ways to conserve water at home.



This delicious science experiment will illustrate how stress on local ground water supplies can negatively impact the quality of our drinking water.

The "Edible Aquifer" program is open to students in grades 5 through 8. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Stop by the Library or call 508-842-0081 x-3 to sign up!

Where Does Your Household Rank?

If your family's quarterly water use is higher than the target numbers listed below, your household needs to make a greater effort to conserve water.

Target Quarterly Residential Water Use								
No. of People in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Target Quarterly Water Use (in gallons)	5,931	11,862	17,793	23,724	29,655	35,586	41,517	47,448

If your family's quarterly water usage is equal to or lower than the target numbers in the chart above, keep up the good work! You are doing your part to conserve water at home, and your family meets or beats the state's 65 gallons per person per day water use goal.

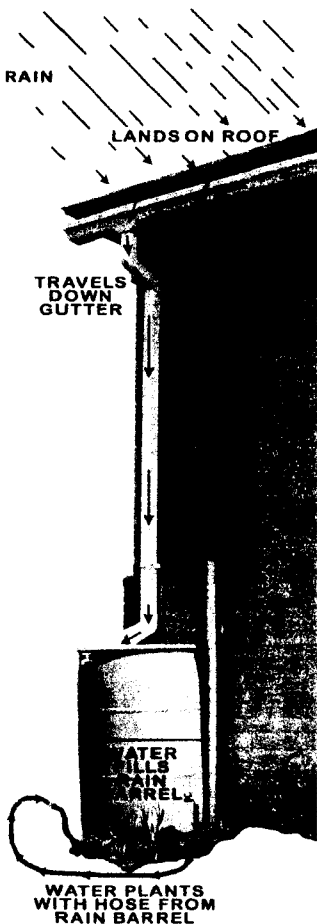
Water Saving Tips from MassDEP

Defrost sensibly. Plan ahead to defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator. Don't use running water. Use the microwave or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water.

Garbage disposals use more water than you think, compost leftover fruits and vegetables instead.

Wash only full loads of laundry. You'll not only save water, but energy as well.

How Does a Rain Barrel Work?



Rain Barrels Now Available

Pickup Day Saturday May 9, 2009 @ Shrewsbury Town Hall

The Town of Shrewsbury has once again partnered with the New England Rain Barrel Company to offer rain barrels to Shrewsbury residents at a discounted price. These rain barrels, normally \$119.95 each, will be available to residents for just \$72.95.



Rain barrels not only store water, they help decrease demand during the summer months. Collecting water from rooftop runoff by placing a rain barrel under your gutter's downspout can provide an ample supply of free "soft water."

Rain water is ideal for organic vegetable gardens, planter beds, indoor plants like ferns and orchids, car washing and window cleaning. Saving water through the use of a rain barrel will reduce your demand for tap water and lower your water bill.

These rain barrels are made from recycled 55 gallon plastic drums and come equipped with a 5 ft. hose and shutoff valve.

Orders may be placed through May 2, 2009. Rain barrel pick-up day is rain or shine on Saturday May 9, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Shrewsbury Town Hall.

Call 1-877-977-3135 to place your order with The New England Rain Barrel Company or visit www.nerainbarrel.com. ***The Water Dept. will not take rain barrel orders!***

Rain barrels MUST be ordered by May 2nd. Pickup of rain barrels will be Sat, May 9th at the Shrewsbury Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. An installation demonstration will be given by the New England Rain Barrel Co.

Why should I buy a rain barrel?

- Collect rainwater to keep your gardens watered during times of restricted use.
- Rainwater is great for plants – it's soft and free of dissolved materials.
- Free yourself from having to use tap water & save money on your water bill.
- Cold tap water can cause "shock" damage to plants.
- Rain barrels capture runoff that would otherwise wash lawn fertilizers and road chemicals into our storm water system. This helps improve water quality in local streams, ponds and lakes.

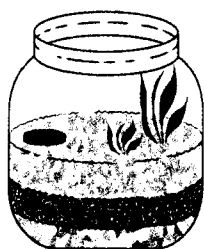


A rain barrel will be on display in the main lobby of Shrewsbury Town Hall beginning in February. Stop by the water conservation garden next to the parking lot at the Town Hall this spring to see installed rain barrels in action.

Mr. Raindrop's Water Cycle Terrarium

- **Where:** Shrewsbury Public Library
- **When:** April. 24, 2009
- **Ages 4-6 @ 10-11 am**
- **Ages 7-9 @ 2-3 pm**
- **Cost: FREE**
Pre-Registration is Required
Call 508-842-0081 x-4

This fun, hands-on program will introduce kids to the water cycle and the need for water conservation.



Children will learn about the water cycle, make a connection between existing water resources and a rising population, and enjoy a visit from Mr. Raindrop.


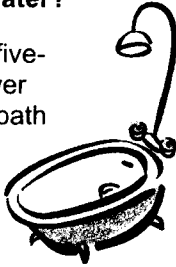
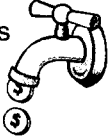
Each participant will create their own living terrarium to bring home as a daily reminder of the water cycle at work.



This program is presented by the Shrewsbury Water Conservation Project and SELCO's 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Test Your WaterSense!

Think you know everything there is to know about water? Test your knowledge of water use behaviors and common water saving opportunities with these questions from the EPA's WaterSense website. To take the online quiz visit www.epa.gov/watersense/quiz.

<p>1. On average, how much water used for irrigating lawns and gardens is wasted due to over watering & evaporation?</p> <p>A. 50% B. 25% C. 15% D. 10%</p> 	<p>2. Which of the following uses less water?</p> <p>A. Taking a five-minute shower B. Taking a bath</p> 	<p>3. Which of the following uses less water?</p> <p>A. Washing dishes under a running tap B. Washing dishes in a fully-loaded automatic dishwasher without pre-rinsing</p> 
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1A; 2A; 3B

Where Does Your Household Rank?

Check your current water bill. If your family's quarterly water use is higher than the target numbers listed below, your household needs to make a greater effort to conserve water.

Target Quarterly Residential Water Use								
No. of People in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Health Department – Pay As You Throw Update Trash Reduced By 1,585 Tons To Date

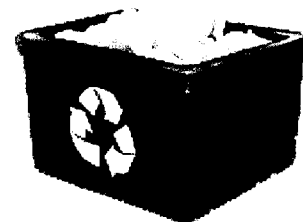


The Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) for trash implemented on August 4th is off to a fine start. Residents have made a real effort to recycle more and to reduce waste. To date, the trash at the curb has been reduced by 1,585 tons. At \$69.10 per ton, that is a savings of \$109,526.95. The sale of PAYT bags and stickers has generated \$424,500 in revenue. The money saved reduces the town budget. The money raised will pay all costs related to trash disposal, an expense that was previously paid for with money raised by taxation.

Residents are reminded that markets for the recyclable materials we collect have taken a downturn. Truckloads of recyclables that are contaminated with items that are not recyclable will be assessed a \$90 per ton fee.

The following items are not recyclable.

Toys and flower pots and other plastic items that are not containers are not recyclable. Window glass, mirrors, light bulbs and Pyrex glass items, aerosol cans, dishes, plastic bags, paint cans, cans that contained hazardous materials, foam packaging, Styrofoam, and Styrofoam egg cartons, wax paper, and soiled pizza boxes are not recyclable. Dispose of these items in your trash.



Practice the Three R's of **Reduce – Reuse – Recycle**. See more information on reducing trash and increasing recycling at www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/recycle.