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Annual Report Number 13  
Date : 3/17/16

## Town of Granby

# NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

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**Self Assessment:**

The Town of Granby is making progress in several areas related to stormwater quality. As mentioned in last year's report, we have begun a curbside solid waste collection program. In addition, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been working with the DPW to expand the lawn waste collection and bulky waste collection program.

We are attempting to make it easier for the public to properly dispose of yard waste and bulky waste material in order to mitigate illegal roadside dumping. We have expanded the number of days that we accept these special collections. In addition, we have purchased another 20 cubic yard dumpster to collect and haul yard waste. The DPW is now capable of collecting and hauling the yard waste to a composting facility. This is being done in-house to keep the cost down so that it remains affordable to the residents.

Last year the Highway Department performed full depth reconstruction on sections of Easton Street and Batchelor Street. On these projects most of the stormwater is collected along the roads in grassed swales. Minimal pipe networks were used which mitigates stormwater impacts to the environment. A number of other roadway improvements were also performed last year. Many of the other projects involved mainly wearing surface improvements. Hot in Place recycling and a new rubber chip seal was installed on nearly two miles of Batchelor Street and Pleasant Street. These repairs were done on streets that were in quite poor condition with numerous potholes. Hopefully, these repairs will substantially lessen the potential for erosion and sedimentation from these previously deteriorated sections of roads. This year was quite a busy year for road repair projects. I cannot remember a year where we completed more miles of roadway repairs in a single year.

The Town of Granby continues to maintain its membership in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. We believe this membership is a crucial component of our education and outreach program. The Town continues to provide significant investment in the operation and maintenance of our Stormdrainage system. We perform annual outfall inspections. We sweep roads and remove winter road sand as soon as possible after winter. Unfortunately, because of the numerous roadway projects described above and a shortage of labor, we are a little behind on catch basin cleaning this year. We hope to catch up with this as soon as we are finished street sweeping operations.

We have attended several seminars on the proposed upcoming changes to the NPDES Stormwater Phase II program regulations. In addition, we have attended the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Annual Environmental Conference. At this conference there were seminars presented by MaDEP on the new guidance on replacing existing roadway culverts.

In preparation for the new Stormwater Phase II requirements, we are exploring the options available for electronic data collection of maintenance operations. We have already purchased Autocad Infrastructure Suite which will allow us to manipulate our current GIS data and to work towards this ability to collect maintenance data in the field with tablets.

Based on the above, we believe that the Town of Granby is honoring its commitments under the current Stormwater Phase II permit requirements. We are also trying to prepare, as best as we can, to be ready for the new regulations. However, we are somewhat concerned about the anticipated large financial burdens that may be required under the new Storm Phase II regulations; especially for small towns with limited resources such as ours.

### **Appropriateness of BMPs:**

We are pleased to report that the Town of Granby has continued its membership and support of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission continues to be an important asset to all member communities. Through this committee we continue to pool our resources in order to create an effective public education and outreach component of our programs. In addition, we are exploring the other areas where shared resources could be used to facilitate compliance under the proposed new permit.

As we have discussed in previous annual reports, the majority of our storm drainage system consists of small isolated systems with a few catchbasins discharging to a nearby low area, wetland or stream. Illicit discharges to a small isolated system such as this would be readily apparent and easily tracked to a source. Over the past few years, our outfall inspections have yielded only a few suspect discharges. Because of this we do not believe that illicit discharges are a significant problem within our system. In light of the above, it is our opinion that most of the bmp's outlined in our stormwater program are reasonable and appropriate for our system.

### **Progress Toward Achievable Goals:**

As mentioned above we are a little behind on the catchbasin cleaning this year due to the heavy workload of road reconstruction projects. Springtime street sweeping operations are currently underway. We expect to begin catchbasin cleaning as soon as the sweeping is finished. We anticipate that we can eliminate the backlog of catchbasin cleaning in the near future.

We completed our dry weather inspections of outfalls. We did note that several outfalls have a considerable amount of brush growing around the outfalls. We hope to be able to trim this back and ensure that the outfalls don't become lost or buried by brush.

We previously mentioned some of the seminars and programs that our employees have attended within the last year. We attempt to keep aware of the latest technology through these seminars and continuing education courses as time allows. This ongoing investment in continuing education and training demonstrates our commitment to the program.

Specific achievements toward the various BMP's are detailed below and grouped under the individual BMP I. D. number:

- 1) The Local Storm Water regulations are in place. The proposed regulations have been reviewed by Town Counsel and the Sewer Commissioners. The sewer commissioners have incorporated the proposed regulations into the sewer regulations.
- 3) Troubled Waters brochures and posters are available at Town Hall. Posters are displayed at the Highway Department. Public outreach is also being accomplished through the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee advertising and presentations.
- 4) The Town of Granby is a member of The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. This committee is providing outreach towards targeted groups. The DPW opened a waste oil collection center.

- 5) The Connecticut River Storm Committee has been very effective in providing public education and outreach in numerous venues. See attached report in appendix A
- 8) The Selectboard is looking for volunteers to appoint to the Connecticut and Chicopee River Watershed Councils. We have joined the Connecticut River Storm Phase II Committee. The Highway Superintendent is representing the Town on this Committee.
- 9) Household waste recycling days are held annually.
- 10) The DPW has previously enlisted the help of the local Girl Scout troop to stencil the catch basins. Their participation in this program seems to be declining therefore we will have to try to find another organizations to continue this effort.
- 11) We have also accepted community service volunteers that have been provided through the court system to pick up roadside trash and clean up at the parks. We have always encouraged and assisted any concerned residents and members of the Conservation Commission in coordinating roadside cleaning.
- 12) The Highway Department has always provided assistance for community cleanups. Also, we promptly try to pick up all large items that are dumped along the roadsides. We try not to let any accumulation occur in order to discourage and mitigate future dumping.
- 13) The Highway Department has purchased a hand held GPS unit and has mapped all storm drains and sanitary sewer systems. Data collection is complete. We have shared this data with the Conservation Commission and assisted them in establishing a GIS database for their use.
- 14) We have delivered paper maps of the stormdrain system to the Police and Fire Departments. We are continuing to work on mapping and organizing the data. We have purchased ArcGIS software. Our staff has made significant progress incorporating this data into a GIS system.
- 15) We are continuing to perform annual inspections of the storm outfalls.
- 16) The proposed illicit discharge regulations have been adopted into our sewer regulations. As mentioned previously, we do not believe that the illicit discharge is a significant problem in our system, based on the information currently available.
- 19) As mentioned above, the town is working on a comprehensive wastewater management plan and a source water protection plan.
- 20) Same as above.
- 23) The Town has constructed a new DPW building. The new facility has enabled us to greatly improve our maintenance and housekeeping. We hope to begin working on a municipal operation plan in the near future as time allows.
- 24) We have purchased a catch basin cleaner. We have also created a database to better manage the maintenance of the stormdrain system. This has enabled us to substantially increase the number of catch basins that are cleaned each year.
- 25) We are planning to support training seminars for employees as time allows.
- 26) All ongoing road maintenance projects incorporate deep sump catchbasins and grass swales at a minimum.

**Next Cycle:**

Currently, we are still working under our previously issued NPDES MS4 permit. We are doing our best to anticipate and prepare for what may be required under the proposed new permit. We are exploring the options available for electronic recordkeeping of maintenance operations. We will probably hold off implementation of any large changes until the new permit is issued by the EPA. Until this happens, we will continue to operate under the terms of the old permit.

We do not foresee any need to make significant changes in the next year. We are planning to continue our involvement with the Connecticut River Storm Committee. We expect the remainder of our operations to continue normally.

**Changes:**

We do not anticipate any significant changes to our stormwater program in the upcoming year. We believe that the overall stormwater program appears to be effective and appropriate for our community; therefore, no significant changes are planned for the next cycle.

**Reliance on Others:**

As mentioned in last year's report, we applaud Governor Baker's efforts to provide additional funds for road maintenance and reconstruction projects under the "Chapter 90 Program". These monies were put to use on projects that directly impact stormwater quality. However, the funding this year has already slipped back to the historic levels which are inadequate to maintain the existing infrastructure let alone make improvements for stormwater quality.

Once again we must emphasize that roadway maintenance budgets have not kept pace with inflation. The result is that our local roads are falling into a severe state of disrepair. Pavement condition indexes continue to decline. This all leads to crumbling roads. Ultimately this contributes to increased erosion and sedimentation within our storm-drainage system and watersheds.

It all comes back to money. With adequate funding, great progress can be achieved. Without adequate investment, progress will stagnate. Small towns such as ours do not have the ability to generate the revenue required to support the necessary investment for normal maintenance of roads never mind improvements geared solely for stormwater improvement. We are constrained by proposition 2½ and the voter's lack of an appetite for any tax increase. For this reason, we are very concerned about the initial cost estimates of the proposed new Storm Phase II Regulations. Based on the initial estimates prepared by the EPA the expected annual costs could exceed the entire DPW/Highway Department budget in our town. The impact of such a significant unfunded mandate could not be borne by a community such as ours. It is especially important to provide help to the smaller towns in the form of grants and funding assistance before implementation of new regulations that place even more of a financial burden upon us.

**Program Summary:**

See chart attached

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EPA No. 041007

Name: Town Of Granby  
 Date: 3-17-16

BMP ID.	BMP	Responsible Dept./Person	Status	Measurable Goal
<b>Minimum Control Measure 1 Public Education /Outreach</b>				
1	Create a Stormwater Program	Selectmen/DPW/Planning/Health	Stormwater regulations adopted	Present to public draft stormwater management plan
2	Create a Stormwater Program	Selectmen/DPW/Planning/Health	Stormwater Regulations adopted	Identify sources of assistance to implement plan
3	Address specific groups	DPW	Brochures available at town hall	Distribute EPA and other relevant educational brochures.
4	Target groups likely to impact stormwater	DPW	Joined Conn. River Storm Committee/ Ongoing	Brochures targeting specific audiences and activities will be available.
5	Identify alternate information	Administrative Assistant/DPW	Stormwater Regulations adopted	Present to public draft of Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
6	Identify alternate information	Administrative Assistant/DPW	Ongoing through Conn. River Storm Comm.	Identify funding sources and apply for assistance to implement plan including education and outreach
7	Utilize local public access channel	DPW	In process/ when appropriate	Public meeting notices and reviewing SMP
8	Develop, conduct and document educational programs	Liaison/DPW	Looking for Volunteers Joined Conn. River Storm Committee	Town will appoint a liaison to Conn. And Chicopee river watershed councils
9	Promote household waste recycling	Board of Health/ DPW	On going annually	Sponsor hazardous waste collection days
<b>Minimum Control Measure 2 Public Participation</b>				
10	Storm drain stenciling	DPW	Looking for group to assist Girl Scouts	Develop a stencil program.
11	Community clean ups	Conservation commission/DPW	ongoing	Encourage stream team cleanups
12	Community clean ups	DPW	Always available on request	Provide trucks and support efforts
<b>Minimum Control Measure 3 IDDE</b>				
13	Inventory and Mapping storm drain system	DPW	GIS Data Collected in – house	Identify funding and obtain assistance
14	Mapping and identification of outfalls and	DPW/Assessors	GIS Data Collected in –	Develop and implement a plan to map outfalls to receiving waters

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EPA No. 041007

Name: Town Of Granby  
 Date: 3-17-16

	receiving waters		house	
15	Identification/description of problem areas	DPW	annual inspections ongoing	Develop and implement an IDDE plan
16	Enforcement procedures addressing illicit discharges	Planning/Building/Town Council/Board of health	Ongoing	Review whether local authority is appropriate and able to respond to illicit discharges.
17	Public information program regarding hazardous waste and dumping	Board of Health/DPW	Ongoing by Board of Health	Provide educational brochures to residents promoting proper disposal of household hazardous wastes and conditions for regional collections.
18	Initiation of recycling programs	Board of Health/DPW	Ongoing By Board of Health	Apply for funding assistance in public education and recycling materials
19	Watershed assessments and studies	Board of Health/DPW/Conservation		Identify opportunities for assistance to support watershed assessment and implementation activities.
20	Watershed assessments and studies	Board of Health/DPW/Conservation		Encourage cooperation with public drinking water suppliers to develop wellhead protection plans
<b>Minimum Control Measure 4</b>		<b>Construction Runoff Control</b>		
21	Bylaw: Storm water management regulations for construction sites 1 acre or larger	Planning/Conservation/Town Council/Board of health/ZBA	Regulations adopted, Purchased software to manage permits	By law adopted
<b>Minimum Control Measure 5</b>		<b>Post Construction Runoff Control</b>		
22	Bylaw: Require post-construction runoff controls	Planning/Conservation/Town Council/Board of health/ZBA DPW	Regulations adopted	By law Adopted
<b>Minimum Control Measure 6</b>		<b>Municipal Good Houskeeping</b>		
23	Develop a municipal operations and Maintenance Plan	DPW	Proceeding as funding allows	Develop and update an operations plan

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Mass. Transmittal No. \_\_\_\_\_  
EPA No. 041007

Name: Town Of Granby  
Date: 3-17-16

24	Develop a municipal operations and Maintenance Plan	DPW	Created Maintenance Database	Implement a formal inspection program
25	Develop and implement training programs for municipal employees	DPW	Ongoing	Send employees for training seminars
26	Review Storm drain infrastructure	DPW	On going	Review infrastructure in chapter 90 utilization

# **APPENDIX A**

**Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
Annual Report  
April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016**

**The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee**

The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee is an intergovernmental compact of 13 municipalities organized to collaborate on education and outreach about stormwater impacts on the Connecticut River. Facilitated and staffed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, committee work helps NPDES MS4 regulated member communities meet stormwater education and outreach permit requirements. Based on the Memorandum of Agreement under which the committee was formed in 2008, work also helps member communities with related bylaws/ordinances and other compliance measures. Member communities are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Connecticut River Stormwater Committee Member Communities**

<b>Member Community</b>	<b>Committee Representatives and Departments</b>
Agawam	Tracey DeMaio, Department of Public Works
Chicopee	Quinn Lonczak, Department of Public Works
Easthampton	Jim Gracia, Department of Public Works
Granby	Dave Derosiers, Highway Department
Holyoke	Yem Lip, Department of Public Works
Longmeadow	Mario Mazza, Department of Public Works
Ludlow	JT Gaucher, Department of Public Works
Northampton	Doug McDonald, Department of Public Works
Southwick	Randall Brown and Richard Grannells, Department of Public Works
South Hadley	Melissa LaBonte, Department of Public Works
Springfield	Kevin Chaffee, Planning/Conservation
West Springfield	Jim Lyons and Amanda Santaniello, Department of Public Works
Westfield	Casey Berube, Department of Public Works

**Education and Outreach over the Past Year**

The Stormwater Committee has been in a transition phase over the past year, continuing education and outreach under the requirements of the 2003 permit, but taking important steps in preparing for the forthcoming 2016 permit. In some cases the work of preparing for the forthcoming permit has served to provide education and outreach under the 2003 permit. This is especially the case with the pet waste practices survey that went to dog owners throughout Stormwater Committee communities (described in greater detail below).

The narrative below summarizes the work of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee during the 2016 reporting year, which includes the following:

- Promoted Soak up the Rain stormwater education campaign
- Designed and constructed 3 demonstration rain gardens with 2 hands-on training events

- Defined program of effective messaging on bacteria/pet waste management
- Began to define program of effective messaging on nutrients
- Discontinued collaboration with Greenscapes Program
- Began retooling website education and outreach for the Pioneer Valley
- Led first phase of urban tree planting project in Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield
- Collaborated with Massachusetts state-wide coalition of stormwater coalitions

## 1. Promoted "Soak up the Rain" stormwater education campaign

The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee continued to develop and promote the "Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain" education campaign (a local version of the EPA's New England campaign). The campaign, a call to action for property owners to reduce stormwater runoff through strategies that soak up the rain, involved two outreach efforts for the Connecticut River this year:

### *Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain Website [www.pvpc.org/soakuptherain/](http://www.pvpc.org/soakuptherain/)*

The Stormwater Committee continues to maintain the Pioneer Valley Soak up the Rain website, which promotes a range of practices, including tree plantings, rain gardens, permeable pavements, dry wells, and green roofs. An occasional blog that includes photos and video provides examples from the region. Property owners throughout the Pioneer Valley are also invited to submit projects that they know of to feature on the website. A "Cool resources" heading provides connection to the latest information and a "resources" menu item links to a library of informational resources. In the past year, the website had 33,997 hits with 12,095 of these hits resulting in information requests being sent to the user. Links to this website are on all member community stormwater web pages.

### *Soak up the Rain Signs for rain gardens and porous paving projects*

The Stormwater Committee produced 150 Soak up the Rain signs, including 100 for rain gardens and 50 for porous paving. Each of the signs has two different sides to them, giving property owners the option to display a message that connotes pride in having such a facility or a more involved message that describes what the system does. Signs have been distributed to Stormwater Committee communities for use at green infrastructure stormwater management projects in their jurisdictions and distributed also to residential and business property owners with high profile projects. The Committee will continue to distribute and display signs to further the message about soaking up the rain. *See sign design below.*



***Rain garden signs – both sides***

**Keep our rivers clean**



soak up  
the rain

**Porous paving**



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
soakuptherain.pvpc.org

**Porous paving**



soak up  
the rain

This paving is designed to let rainfall or snowmelt soak into the ground...

- reducing flooding
- replenishing groundwater drinking sources; and
- eliminating flows that carry pollutants to nearby rivers



Connecticut River Stormwater Committee  
soakuptherain.pvpc.org

*Porous paving signs – both sides*

**2. Designed and constructed 3 demonstration rain gardens with 2 hands-on training events**

PVPC continued work with the Regenerative Design Group to design and construct demonstration rain gardens in Springfield. Two of the three projects to date have also included hands-on trainings to build regional know-how in the design and installation of rain gardens. Trainees then helped by volunteering to install plants in each of the rain gardens. Though rain garden facilities are located in Springfield, trainings have been advertised throughout the region to include all Stormwater Committee communities. The three rain garden projects to date have included:

<i>Rain garden address</i>	<i>Description of facility</i>	<i>Training details</i>
Birchland Avenue - residential demonstration project	370 square foot facility that has capacity to capture and soak up 1,384 gallons of rainfall from portion of rooftop.	NA
Springfield Museums - institutional demonstration project	2,900 square foot facility near Chestnut Street that has capacity to capture and soak up 11,800 gallons from half of large rooftop on Kilroy House	Training on May 16 drew 21 participants from several stormwater committee communities. Program began with overview on the nature of stormwater impacts on the Connecticut River and the advantages of capture and infiltration of flows using rain gardens to avert flooding and pollution, and promote improved aesthetics. The training then provided detail on site evaluation, design strategy, site preparation, and installation.
Gardening the Community - community demonstration project	1,000 square foot facility along Walnut and James Streets that has capacity to capture and soak	Training on October 3 drew 22 participants from various stormwater committee communities. Program

	<p>up 3,740 gallons from paved parking lot - this is a new community garden site and the rain garden is part of the 1st phase of construction</p>	<p>began with overview on the nature of stormwater impacts on the Connecticut River and the advantages of capture and infiltration of flows using rain gardens to avert flooding and pollution, and promote improved aesthetics. The training then provided detail on site evaluation, design strategy, site preparation, and installation.</p>
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Promoting these trainings entailed reaching out to: Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, Ecological Landscape Alliance, local public libraries, and notice placements with area newspapers and social media resources. The rain garden work is made possible through a settlement agreement reached by Clean Water Action. Based on the materials, contracts, and know-how developed through this work in Springfield, this project can be easily duplicated in other stormwater committee member communities for the future. PVPC has talked with both Clean Water Action and MassDEP about additional funding to replicate this program in other communities.



*Residential demonstration rain garden in Springfield*



*Institutional demonstration rain garden at Springfield Museums*



*Community demonstration rain garden at Gardening the Community's new site at Walnut and James Streets in Springfield*

### **3. Defined program of effective messaging on bacteria/pet waste management**

Based on the 2014 draft Massachusetts Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit, the 2016 final permit to be issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will require urbanized areas draining to the Connecticut River to provide an annual message to encourage proper management of pet waste. Specifically, communities with systems that discharge to bacteria or pathogen impaired waters without an EPA approved TMDL must supplement education and outreach programming, ...with an annual message encouraging the proper management of pet waste, including noting any existing ordinances where appropriate. The permittee or its agents shall disseminate educational materials to dog owners at the time of issuance or renewal of a dog license, or other appropriate time. Education materials shall describe the detrimental impacts of improper management of pet waste, requirements for waste collection and disposal, and penalties for noncompliance.”<sup>1</sup>

Messaging on proper management of pet waste is also required in the June/July time frame for communities where there are nitrogen and phosphorous impaired waters.

All 13 member communities of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee will be subject to these requirements. As such, the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee has been interested in

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<sup>1</sup> Note that where appropriate municipalities must also provide messaging around septic system maintenance to help address bacteria impairments.

understanding the effectiveness of past pet waste messaging and how to move forward with messaging under the new permit.

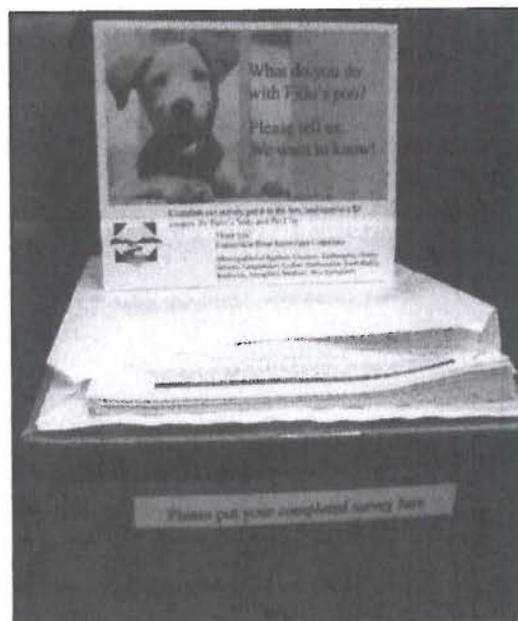
With funding from the Massachusetts Direct Local Technical Assistance Program and match from the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee budget, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission worked with member communities to devise and distribute a survey to help provide direction on bacteria messaging.

With members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) developed a three-page survey containing 20 questions for dog owners. Survey design was informed by the principles of community based social marketing. As defined by McKenzie-Mohr and Smith, community based social marketing seeks to foster sustainable behavior by first identifying barriers and benefits to a sustainable behavior. They note that barriers may be “internal” to the individual, such as lack of knowledge regarding how to carry out an activity, or external, as in structural changes that need to be made in order for the behavior to be more convenient.<sup>2</sup> As such, understanding current practices, barriers, and perceptions were integral to the six overarching questions the Stormwater Committee sought to answer through the survey:

1. Has the most recent dog waste messaging through the distribution of posters under the Think Blue Connecticut River campaign reached pet owners and got them to think about their practices?
2. Do people understand the connection between pet waste and stormwater?
3. What are current practices in yards at home, while walking in neighborhood, and walking in public parks?
4. What are the barriers to best practices?
5. What would make best practices easier for dog owners?
6. What are important considerations for messaging about pet waste practices going forward?

PVPC distributed the *paper survey* through animal hospital waiting rooms (see image at right) in Stormwater Committee municipalities and through direct distribution of surveys at two dog parks in the region. A link to the *electronic version of the survey* went by e-mail to clients of Dave's Soda and Pet City and the Northampton Veterinary Clinic. Both survey distribution methods included an incentive – a \$5 coupon to Dave's Soda and Pet City, a local pet store, with franchises throughout the region, which kindly donated the coupons.

A total of 1,279 people completed the survey – 100 paper surveys were collected and 1,179 people completed the online survey. Of the completed surveys, 641 were completed by people who live in Connecticut River Stormwater Committee member communities. The messaging analysis and report focuses on the results from those specific communities.



Box with surveys left in animal hospitals in stormwater committee municipalities.

<sup>2</sup> From: *Fostering Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community Based Social Marketing*, by Doug McKenzie-Mohr and William Smith, New Society Publishers, 1999.

## ***Major Findings from Survey***

### **Effectiveness of most recent messaging**

The past poster message about dog waste in the Connecticut River Think Blue campaign reached 8.7% of survey respondents (59 people) in Connecticut River Stormwater Committee communities. What is interesting is that fully 134 people responded to the follow up question about whether the message got them to change their practices. This may indicate that by virtue of showing the message on the survey page itself, people took in the message and were prompted to consider their practices. Comments seem to reinforce this, with many writing, "I already pick up my pet's waste." Of those 134 survey respondents, nearly 40% indicated that the ad moved them to make "a major change" or "somewhat of a change in their practices." The remaining 60% indicated either "not much of a change," "no change at all," or "not sure." Based on written comments, it is likely that those in this later category are already picking up their dog's waste.

### **Connection between pet waste and stormwater**

The survey indicates widespread awareness that pet waste can affect streams and rivers, with 74.5% recognizing that it contributes either "a great deal," "a moderate amount," or "a little." At the same time, 25.6% of respondents are "not sure" or "do not think" that pet waste is a contributing factor to water pollution.

### **Current practices (in yards at home, while walking in neighborhood, and walking in public parks or forests)**

Regardless of whether they are in their yard with their dog, walking around the neighborhood, or walking at a public park or forest, the majority of respondents report picking up waste. In *their own yard or around the neighborhood*, 88% and 97% of respondents respectively report picking up after their dog, and put the waste in the trash (or for a few, flush it down the toilet).

When asked why they pick up after their dog *in their own yard*, the most common response is "hygiene/health reasons", followed by "courtesy to neighbors," "concern for environment," and "it's the law." When walking a dog *around the neighborhood* or at a *public park or forest*, "courtesy to neighbors" is the most common response, followed by "hygiene/health reasons."

For dog owners who do not pick up after their dog in their yard, a follow-up question on the survey asks to identify the reason why. Of the 125 people who answered this question, 63% stated that they think dog waste is a "natural fertilizer." A smaller number of people felt that it "makes little difference" (15.0%) or it is "too much trouble" (7.2%). From the comments made as part of this question, it is clear that many people who live in more rural locations feel it is not necessary to pick up waste, or that it is not going to contaminate a water supply.

When asked a similar question in regard to *walking their dog in the neighborhood*, 12 people indicated that they don't pick up their dog's waste. In a follow up question, however, 26 people gave reasons for not picking up the dog's waste. Of those, the most popular response was that "it is a natural fertilizer." For a few, "it is too much trouble," or they simply forgot a bag or some other means of picking it up. Lastly, *when at a public park or forest*, 51 people stated they don't pick up after their dog. Of these, the most common reason was that "it is a natural fertilizer," followed by "makes little difference." Some of the comments suggest that if people are far in the woods, they don't see the need to pick it up. Similarly, if they have forgotten a bag, or do not have a way to dispose of the waste (short of bringing it home with them), they are likely to leave it.

There are several themes that emerge from among those who do not pick up after their dog. First, a sizeable number of respondents think of pet waste as a "natural fertilizer" and that it doesn't have a significant effect on water quality. Second, many respondents commented that they live in a rural area, and infer that the waste will decompose along with other wild animals wastes. These results suggest that there is an opportunity to raise awareness about pet waste in the environment and help to change behavior. If dog owners better understand the potential water quality impacts of leaving feces on the ground, they may be more likely not leave it where it falls. As several respondents who do pick up waste referred to the law as a reason, regulations and fines may be another useful strategy for behavior change as well.

**Why you do not pick up your dog's waste?**

	In yard		In neighborhood		In public park/forest	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Not concerned	12.0%	15	3.9%	1	7.8%	4
Makes little difference	15.0%	19	0%	0	17.7%	9
Too much trouble	7.2%	9	23.0%	6	13.7%	7
My neighbors don't; so why should I?	1.0%	1	7.7%	2	5.9%	3
It is a natural fertilizer	63.2%	79	50.0%	13	52.9%	27
It is not sanitary to pick up	1.6%	2	15.4%	4	2.0%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>51</b>

Generally, people are more likely to pick up after their dog if they are not on their own property. They are also more concerned about "courtesy toward their neighbors" when they are walking in the neighborhood or in a park, and this prompts them to pick up after their dog.

**Why do you pick up your dog's waste?**

	In yard		In neighborhood		In public park/forest	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Courtesy to neighbors	28.1%	232	37.4%	367	32.0%	315
Hygiene/health reasons	39.8%	329	30.3%	297	30.0%	294
Concern for the environment	22.3%	184	20.0%	197	24.0%	236
It's the law	9.8%	81	12.3%	121	14.0%	139
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>984</b>

**Barriers to best practices**

Within this survey, responses indicate widespread understanding that pet waste should not be left on the ground, and that there is a responsibility as a pet owner to pick up after dogs. Some comments, however, indicate that despite good behavior reported by the survey respondents, there is a problem with "others" not picking up dog waste.

"It's already quite easy. Wish more people thought this way. It's my worst pet peeve to see dog waste on the ground."

"It's very easy to pick up my dog's poop. There should be no reason why people don't do this. Those that don't are just plain LAZY."

Public works and highway officials on the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee confirm that improper pet waste disposal practices are still a big problem in their communities.

Barriers to best practices evident in comments from survey respondents are:

- the need for greater understanding that pet waste doesn't stay where it falls – that water can carry it (or pieces of it) quite a distance so that it contaminates nearby waterbodies
- the need for greater understanding that pet waste is not a “natural fertilizer”
- lack of receptacles for easy disposal of waste
- winter months when fewer receptacles are out or it is just more difficult to access feces to pick them up
- forgetting bags at home

#### Making it easier for dog owners to do the right thing

To the question “What would it take to make picking up your dog’s waste easier for you?” many respondents gave more than one response and also provided comments. Responses were as follows:

More receptacles	422 responses
Easier access to bags	286 responses
Monetary fine	17 responses

Seventy six of the respondents also provided comments under “other,” indicating that they already pick up after their dog, or that it’s the right and responsible things to do. A few commented that knowing it’s a potential pollutant is a motivator. One mentioned more posted signs and making it an enforceable law and another said a compost facility so that the waste does not end up at a landfill.

#### ***Messaging Going Forward***

For behavior change, community based social marketing practitioners have identified some important tools. These include gaining commitments from individuals to develop community norms that encourage people to behave more sustainably. Direct personal contact is a key technique as the research indicates that people are most likely to change some behaviors in response to direct appeals or social support from others. (McKenzie-Mohr and Smith) These are important guidelines in thinking about messaging going forward.

#### Discussion and key considerations

Most survey respondents report that they pick up their dog’s waste. Strong motivators cited by respondents to picking up dog waste—including health/hygiene reasons and courtesy to neighbors—indicate that campaigns over the years, whether people acknowledge their impact or not, seem to have “normalized” the practice of carrying waste disposal bags, and picking up and disposing of dog waste. The availability of products, including dog waste scoops and the waste bag totes that clip to leashes, have likely also factored into this normalization of practice. From survey responses at least, the “yuck” factor of picking up waste is almost non-existent. [Less than 2% of respondents (1 and 2 people depending on setting: yard, neighborhood, park/forest) indicate they do not pick up waste due to it not being sanitary to pick it up.]

The question remains whether this survey involves a self selected group most of whom “do the right thing” or whether the self reporting within the survey is overly optimistic (at least one past study has noted that people are inclined to want to report that they are “doing the right thing”). Some of the survey comments and certainly the experience of public works and local highway officials on the

Stormwater Committee indicate there remains a problem with people not picking up dog waste or picking it up and disposing of it improperly, either leaving bagged waste on the ground or putting it down the storm drain. As such, effective messaging about dog waste will continue to be important. Following are key considerations in messaging based on survey results:

- Disabuse dog owners of the idea that pet waste is a “natural fertilizer” and inform them about the contamination issues associated with this waste, broadening the understanding of stormwater runoff concepts.
- Encourage homeowners (in both rural and urban areas) to pick up after their dog. Inform homeowners that even though the waste may not initially be located near a storm drain, stream or river, the leachate may travel toward them when carried by rainfall or snowmelt.
- Capitalize on existing motivators to pick up dog waste, particularly health/hygiene reasons and courtesy to neighbors.
- While not as strong a motivator, reminding people of the law and possible consequences of not picking up dog waste could promote best practices
- Undertake a campaign to install more waste disposal facilities, making these facilities more highly visible in public parks, forests, and particularly locations where municipal officials observe persistent problems with proper waste disposal.

#### ***Next Steps***

Based on survey results, PVPC has developed a draft program of messaging for Stormwater Committee communities on pet waste that includes metrics required under the forthcoming permit. This include proposed formats and venues. The Stormwater Committee will review and refine this program in the coming months to include in the Notice of Intent and Stormwater Management Program Plan that they must each complete.

#### **4. Began to define program of effective messaging on nutrients**

Based on the 2014 draft Massachusetts Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit, the 2016 final permit to be issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will have various education and outreach requirements for nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorous. While there are four audiences noted under the permit, nutrient outreach and education is largely aimed at the residential, and business and institutional audiences. Note that the business and institutional audience includes private colleges, private schools, hospitals, and commercial facilities. Education and outreach topics relative to nutrients involve: lawn care activities, proper management of pet waste, and maintenance of septic systems.

There are additional education and outreach requirements depending on water quality issues:

A. All Pioneer Valley stormwater regulated communities are subject to the *Long Island Sound Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for nitrogen* and must therefore supplement Residential and Business/Commercial/Institution programs with annual timed messages on specific topics:

- an annual message in the spring (April/May) timeframe that encourages the proper use and disposal of grass clippings and encourages the proper use of slow-release fertilizers;

- an annual message in the summer (June/July) timeframe encouraging the proper management of pet waste, including noting any existing ordinances where appropriate;<sup>3</sup>
- an annual message in the Fall (August/September/October) timeframe encouraging the proper disposal of leaf litter

“The permittee shall deliver an annual message on each of these topics, unless the permittee determines that one or more of these issues is not a significant contributor of nitrogen to discharges from the MS4 and the permittee retains documentation of this finding in the SWMP.”

B. Where water quality limited waterbodies are *impaired by phosphorus* (Belchertown, Easthampton, Granby, Southamptton, Springfield, and Westfield), a municipality must supplement its Residential and Business/Commercial/Institution program with annual timed messages on specific topics:

- an annual message in the spring (March/April) timeframe that encourages the proper use and disposal of grass clippings and encourages the proper use of slow-release and phosphorous-free fertilizers
- an annual message in the summer (June/July) timeframe encouraging the proper management of pet waste, including noting any existing ordinances where appropriate
- an annual message in the fall (August/September/October) timeframe encouraging the proper disposal of leaf litter

“The permittee shall deliver an annual message on each of these topics, unless the permittee determines that one or more of these issues is not a significant contributor of phosphorous to discharges from the MS4 and the permittee retains documentation of this finding in the SWMP.”

Note that communities that are subject to a *lake or pond Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for phosphorus* (Granby, Hadley, Ludlow, Springfield, and Wilbraham) must develop a Lake Phosphorus Control Plan and within it describe both planned structural as well as non-structural controls. These non structural controls could include education and outreach, but based on the 2014 draft MS4 permit there does not seem to be anything specifically required on education and outreach within the permit term.

#### ***Education and outreach on nutrients***

All 13 member communities of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee will be subject to education and outreach requirements on nutrients. As such, the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee has been interested in understanding how to move forward with messaging under the new permit.

With funding from the Massachusetts Direct Local Technical Assistance Program and match from the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee budget, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission worked to examine useful research and understand new regulations to provide direction for messaging on nutrients by the Committee.

#### **New fertilizer use regulations in Massachusetts**

Massachusetts has two sets of new regulations related to fertilizer use: one for non-agricultural turf and lawns and another for agricultural land. The new regulations for turf and lawns became effective June 5, 2015, and stipulate that phosphorous containing fertilizers may only be applied to turf and lawns when:

<sup>3</sup> Annual messaging for pet waste is covered under the Bacteria section of this report.

1. a soil test indicates that it is needed; or
2. a lawn is being established, patched, or renovated.

This restriction mirrors laws already in place in Connecticut, Vermont, and New Jersey. Other highlights from the Massachusetts regulation prohibit nutrient applications between December 1 to March 1 or to saturated soil or soils that are frequently flooded. Professionals must keep records of nutrient applications. Retailers must display phosphorous containing fertilizer products separate from non-phosphorous fertilizer products and post a sign displaying language informing the consumer about phosphorous containing fertilizer restrictions for turf and lawns. For more detail, see language of regulation in Appendix E, and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Fact Sheet in Appendix F.

On December 5, 2015, regulations for the application of plant nutrients on agricultural lands became effective.

#### Existing Studies and Reports

In researching messaging around lawn care and nutrients, PVPC found critical guidance for the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee in a multi-year study (2006 to 2010) by the Land Grant Universities/Cooperative Extensions in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Unfortunately, the cooperative extension at the University of Massachusetts did not participate in this study.

Focused on residential property owners, the study explores current understanding and behavior and messaging to change homeowner lawn care behavior to reduce nutrient loss in New England. PVPC could not find any studies focused on other types of property owners with lawns or even lawn care businesses or any specific explanation why the focus in this study on residential property owners.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA CSREES), the multi-year study had three major components:

- Part 1: Extensive social science survey on lawn care behavior in 5 New England communities (Hampden, ME; East Lyme, CT; Milton, NH; Brandon, VT; East Kingstown, RI) conducted to inform outreach design, development and implementation
- Part 2: Development and distribution of education and outreach materials guided by the social science survey findings
- Part 3: Follow up survey to understand effectiveness of project messaging in changing lawn care behavior

The program of this project was informed by the principles of community based social marketing. As defined by McKenzie-Mohr and Smith and mentioned above in the Bacteria section of this report, community based social marketing seeks to foster sustainable behavior by: identifying barriers and benefits to a sustainable behavior, designing a strategy that utilizes behavior change tools, piloting the strategy with a small segment of a community, and evaluating the impact of the program once it has been implemented across a community.

The central question to the USDA CSREES study is: What motivates environmentally responsible behavior in lawn care? Understanding the large answer to this question helped to inform design of a

specific outreach program aimed at measurable change in the practices of small-scale landowners in caring for their landscapes. Other objectives of the study included:

- Explore primary drivers of Do it Yourselfers (DIYers) lawn care choices and practices, especially with regard to fertilizer applications
- Investigate perceived barriers and benefits to adoption of more water quality friendly nutrient application practices
- Examine relative measures of trust and frequency of contact for various sources of yard care information by neighborhood residents
- Determine effectiveness of trained opinion leaders (such as Master Gardeners, local garden center staff, alpha neighbors, Extension staff, etc) to influence residential nutrient management behavior in neighborhoods

Results for part 1 of the program are included in a document entitled, "Changing Homeowner Lawn Care Behavior to Reduce Nutrient Losses in New England's Urbanizing Watersheds, Social Science Results Summary," 2008. This work entailed 52 in depth interviews in 5 communities with turf care opinion leaders from 4 categories:

- industry/business group
- outreach/educators group
- community/alpha neighbor group
- research/scientist group

In addition self-administered questionnaires were sent to residents in each of the 5 communities with the return of 754 completed questionnaires. See a summary of the key findings in Appendix G.

Note that for parts 2 and 3 of the program (the outreach phase), Maine, conducted and reported the work separately from the other project partners. As a result there are two different reports under part 3 of the program, one that covers Maine and another report that covers the communities in Maine, as well as Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Respectively, these reports are entitled as follows: "Changing Bangor Area Lawn Care Behavior: Results from the Evaluation Survey," 2008, and "Changing Homeowner Lawn Care Behavior to Reduce Nutrient Losses in New England's Urbanizing Watersheds, Final Social Science Project Evaluation Report," July 2010.

The 2010 study acknowledges, "...the study site in Maine was able to leverage the research from this project into a larger campaign than in other study communities..." In Maine, project partners followed up on the survey by testing messaging in six "...high amenity suburban communities with heavily managed lawns." They distributed messaging as follows: two neighborhoods received no messaging, serving as the control group; two neighborhoods received standard messaging about stormwater; and two neighborhoods received "normative" messaging (which aims to redefine the norm). Normative messaging picked up on indications from the USDA CSREES survey as well as previous studies that people feel it very important that their lawn fit in with their community and that community members adhere to community standards of lawn care (one researcher on the project referred to this as the "peer pressure" approach). So messages under this category were along the lines of, "Most of your neighbors don't apply chemicals to their lawns because they know that there is a better way to go in getting a healthy lawn."

### ***Major Findings***

While study findings within the USDA CEERES funded project agree that homeowners feel it very important that their lawn fit in with their community and that community members adhere to community standards of lawn care, study results also demonstrate that the standards of care and amount of fertilizers applied to lawns vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. In the first USDA CSREES survey of 5 communities across New England, the norm was not to apply fertilizers while in the Maine survey of the 6 “high amenity suburban neighborhoods,” the norm is to apply fertilizers.

Also, while the project’s first survey results indicate that there is a high level of awareness that lawn care practices may impact water quality, the Maine survey indicates that despite this understanding and concern, the perceived prevalence of chemicals used to maintain lawns in neighborhoods leads respondents to continue to apply chemicals to care for their lawns. Despite these issues, the Maine study did find that those who received normative messaging demonstrate a greater intention to reduce or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide use over those people who received standard messaging or no messaging at all.

### **What motivates lawn care choices and practices**

The major driver for people seems to be a need to “fit in” by following the standards of lawn care they see in their neighborhood. At least one of the studies notes that this ideal of a desirable/healthy lawn is driven in large part by marketing, resulting in a type of lawn that demands high levels of input and intensive management strategies.

### **Most effective messaging**

Based on the results coming out of the five-state New England study, it seems homeowners are aware that lawn chemicals can run off into waterways and negatively impact water quality. Homeowners also seem to understand the harmful impacts that lawn chemicals can have on children and pets. These connections between environment and health are important or very important to 77% of the respondents in the five-state USDA CEREEES funded survey. Along these lines, making connections to specific, local bodies of water draws on people’s a sense of place as a motivator in environmentally responsible behaviors.

While health and water quality information should continue to be part of messaging, the Maine study indicates that messaging focused on shifting norms in lawn care will be most effective in facilitating behavior change. This norm-based appeal to environmental behavior change is far more effective than other framings.

Normative messaging aims to redefine what is a desirable lawn/healthy lawn and provides a means for DIYers to achieve a desirable and healthy lawn while adhering to environmentally sensitive strategy. According to the surveys from the study, what constitutes a “healthy lawn” is interpreted on a highly variable basis-not driven by research, but marketing. These influences seem to be resulting in lawns that demand high levels of input and intensive management strategies that could easily be interpreted as being unhealthy.

Other important approaches to effective messaging from or derived from the USDA CEREEES funded studies include:

- A component related to, “Don’t use it all” or “Use only what needed” to address the tendency for people to use an entire package of fertilizer to avoid storage and thus overfertilize. New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is already considering development and distribution of a bag

clip that not only helps to make storage of leftover fertilizer a bit more convenient, but reminds people not to use it all.

- Messaging that plays up what appears to be common regard for lawns as providing recreational space (a functional, rather than appearance defined standard). Messaging from Paul Tukey's Safe Lawns campaign and his two books related to this campaign could be effective in this regard. It appears that the campaign organization itself is no longer operational, though the website is still up and running with tremendous information. See: Safelawns.org

### Barriers to best practices

As mentioned above, the norms for lawn care within a given neighborhood and the desire for property owners to adhere to that standard present the biggest challenge in getting adoption of better practices.

Directions for more environmentally friendly practices of care must be more easily and readily available. The USDA CERES funded surveys found that people rely heavily on product packaging for application information. And the five-state survey found that University Extension and Master Gardeners are considered to be the most trustworthy sources of information.

It is important to note too that while people did not attach high importance to having a dark green lawn, clover free lawn, or golf-course quality lawn, they did feel that having a pest free lawn, having thick grass, and having a weed-free lawn are important.

While people in the 5-state survey do not seem averse to spending a little more time on their lawn (two-thirds of respondents indicated "no" or "no preference" to the question of whether they would prefer to spend less time managing their lawn than they currently do), they do feel that environmentally friendly lawn care practices will cost them more money. Good information on costs should be developed and distributed to help people understand the actual measure of this cost.

### Making it easier for people to "do the right thing"

Points of purchase, where people are buying lawn care products and presumably looking for information on how to get desired results, presents great opportunity to help people do the right thing. Messaging and information could be provided in these locations through lawn care kiosks and workshops hosted by the local garden centers and hardware stores selling products in collaboration with some of the most trusted sources of information (as indicated by the New England survey): Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners.

It is also critical to provide one reliable place to go for good information on homeowner lawn care practices. In Massachusetts, the new regulations refer people to the UMass Cooperative Extension for guidance. Guidelines for homeowners, however, are not immediately identifiable on the UMass website. Perhaps a great photo with a heading that says, "Your Lawn: What You Need to Know (click here)." While the new Massachusetts regulations focus on phosphorous, it will be important for people to also obtain information on nitrogen application, especially given that the Connecticut River basin contributes to water quality problems in Long Island Sound.

The USDA CERES funded project noted that recommendations from each the University of Connecticut and University Massachusetts Cooperative Extensions are somewhat contradictory from one another. Other cooperative extensions in New England appear to be using the recommendations coming from UConn, which might create some inconsistency with professionals who travel to other states to do lawn care.

At the same time, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission has devised a set of fertilizer guidelines for what it defines as “nonperformance turf”/“urban turf” based on four stakeholder meetings between 2012 and 2013. Stakeholders included turf fertilizer manufacturers, lawn care professionals, sports turf managers, turf industry trade groups and professional associations, researchers, university extension specialists, municipal and private groundskeepers, state and federal environmental agencies, and watershed groups. These are published in a report entitled, “Regional Clean Water Guidelines for Fertilization of Urban Turf.”

Since UMass Cooperative Extension is cited as the source for information in complying with new Massachusetts regulations, supporting UMass Cooperative Extension in developing and widely distributing concise and specific recommendations for best practices will be critical. Reconciling what may appear to be different recommendations coming from the NEIWPC and UConn's Cooperative Extension could be helpful too.

With the new requirements that soils be tested before applying phosphorous to a lawn, it will be important to sponsor soil test days. Interpreting results will be another important component of enabling people to comply with the new regulations as results may be confusing.

### ***Messaging Going Forward***

#### **Discussion and key considerations**

While the New England USDA CESREES project focused on homeowners, there are three additional audiences to which messaging about fertilizer use is important and required under the MS4 permit. These are: lawn care companies and commercial and institutional property owners with large lawns. Working with these other audiences to understand barriers and motivations to better practices will be important going forward in communities with such property owners. (Note that under the MS4 permit, reduced fertilizer use by cities and towns on landscapes at municipal parks, schools, and other properties is part of the municipal Minimum Control Measure on Good Housekeeping.) At the same time, UMass Extension has been working already with several of these audiences. It will be important to coordinate and integrate with the work UMass is already doing.

It is also critically important to get consistent fertilizer application recommendations together for both phosphorous and nitrogen. Though the new Massachusetts fertilizer regulations only explicitly curtail phosphorous use, nitrogen is a concern in the entire Connecticut River watershed based on water quality problems in Long Island Sound. For now, the MS4 permit has no specific restrictions on nitrogen in stormwater, but this may change going forward.

To be most effective, it will be useful to focus energy toward behavior change in neighborhoods where it is clear the standard of lawn care requires high inputs of fertilizers. Door hangers, a lawn sign campaign, and workshops at nearby garden centers or hardware stores are all ways to provide focus on a specific neighborhood. Target audiences might include condominium or neighborhood associations as well. It may also make sense to identify those neighborhoods with high inputs where there are existing water quality issues in nearby lakes or rivers.

Following are key considerations in nutrient messaging for homeowners based on the MS4 permit requirements, the new Massachusetts fertilizer use regulations, and findings from the USDA CESREES project:

- Use normative messaging wherever possible making group standards more apparent (e.g., 70% of your neighbors do not apply chemical fertilizers because they understand there are better ways to get the great lawn they want). People often decide what attitudes and actions are appropriate from those around them. This will take additional research in many cases in order to understand the norm in a given area.
- Redefine what is a desirable lawn and connect this to public health and water impacts/improvements. Also, be sure to name the Connecticut River or a local lake with which people identify.
- Provide good, clear instructions on best fertilizer practices and application rates when needed. Include distinction between slow release fertilizers and information on proper use of composts.
- Provide good, clear instructions on proper use/disposal of grass clippings in April/May and proper disposal of leaf litter in August/September/October
- Draw on sense of lawns as recreational space, a functional space to keep safe for people and pets
- Promote ways to not use all the fertilizer in a bag if not needed
- Partner with UMass Cooperative Extension and Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners wherever possible as the USDA survey indicates that residents caring for lawns seem to most trust cooperative extensions and master gardener organizations on lawn care issues

#### ***Next Steps***

Based on survey results, PVPC has developed a draft program of messaging for Stormwater Committee communities on nutrients that includes metrics required under the forthcoming permit. This includes proposed formats and venues. The Stormwater Committee will review and refine this program in the coming months to include in the Notice of Intent and Stormwater Management Program Plan that they must each complete.

### **5. Discontinued collaboration with the Greenscapes Program [www.Greenscapes.org](http://www.Greenscapes.org)**

On behalf of Stormwater Committee members, PVPC has had lengthy conversations with Greenscapes partners to encourage the coalition to stay with a program of building understanding about the connection between better lawn and garden care practices and reduced impacts on water resources and human and environmental health. It seems especially important to stay with this specialized program given the new fertilizer regulations just enacted by Massachusetts. Despite PVPC's urging, however, coordinators of the Greenscapes program decided to leave this program of messaging and expand Greenscapes to address a broader program of stormwater information to more fully serve member communities in eastern Massachusetts.

### **6. Began retooling website education and outreach for the Pioneer Valley**

Given the various websites/pages the Stormwater Committee communities have been using to promote work under the 2003 permit, including Think Blue and Greenscapes, and the expanded education and requirements of the forthcoming permit, PVPC has begun working to retool and update web materials. This has started with a newly proposed website framework under "Think Blue: Clean Water Begins with You," that attends to the various stormwater issues and audiences under the new permit. It will bring together education and outreach materials together with metrics for understanding the effectiveness of

messages and movement away from behavior and practices that negatively impact the health of the Connecticut River.

## **7. Led first phase of urban tree planting project in Chicopee, Holyoke, and Springfield**

PVPC is leading an effort to promote urban tree planting in the region's 3 major cities in partnership with the US Forest Service, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Valley Opportunity Council, Nuestras Raices, ReGreen Springfield, Conway School of Design, Mass DCR, and the Cities of Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield. Aimed at reducing stormwater flows to combined sewer areas and promoting greater climate resilience, the project involves an integrated community outreach process involving multiple neighborhood workshops and workshops for public works officials. The workshop for public works officials, held in November and conducted by engineering consultants TetraTech, drew 12 officials from 6 stormwater committee communities. The two neighborhood workshops held to date have each drawn some 40 participants. Once completed, the project will provide the following major deliverables:

- installation of 2,200 trees on local streets and yards
- final engineering design for a green streets in each municipality
- model stormwater tree rebate ordinance

The project is made possible thanks to a \$239,000 grant award to PVPC from the US Forest Service under the State and Private Forestry FY15 Northeastern Area Landscape Scale Restoration Program.

## **8. Collaborated with Massachusetts state-wide coalition of stormwater coalitions**

On behalf of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, PVPC has been participating in a state wide conversation with other stormwater coalitions to determine how best to build efficiencies through collaboration for the forthcoming MS4 stormwater permit. The group, called together by a consultant and leader of the Central Mass coalition, has had two meetings to date in an effort to identify existing resources and explore possible collaborations on education and outreach. PVPC's hope is that the group can better identify all possible activities for collaboration under the permit by:

- clarifying who has produced tools and resources that can help in meeting permit requirements, perhaps with some updating
- where the gaps are in possible joint state-wide materials, and
- who would like to take responsibility for specific work going forward