

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water resulting from rain or snowmelt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways and parking lots.

Along the way, the water may pick up and transport contaminants including motor oils, gasoline, antifreeze, and brake dust (commonly found on pavement), fertilizers and pesticides, and soil sediments (from construction sites). The water eventually flows into a local stream, river or lake, or into a storm drain and continues through storm pipes until it is released untreated into a local waterbody.

Stormwater can result in significant pollution to surface water affecting recreation such as swimming and can endanger aquatic life.

The General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (“MS4 General Permit”) requires each municipality to take steps to keep the stormwater entering its stormwater drainage systems clean before entering water bodies. One important element of this permit is the requirement that towns implement public education programs to make residents aware that stormwater pollutants emanate from many of their everyday living activities, and to inform them of steps they can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

The Town of New Hartford is committed to educating residents about measures that can be taken to keep stormwater runoff clean.