

Swim Water Testing

The Town collects and tests water samples from nine locations weekly during the summer in and around Mallets Bay. The testing is for E. coli. which is an effective indicator for the possible presence of more harmful bacteria that can cause human health problems such as gastrointestinal dysfunction (gastroenteritis). Test results can be found on the Parks and Recreation webpage at <https://colchestervt.gov/3360/Swim-Water-Testing>



Image designed by macrovector / Freepik

Stormwater Information

For more information about the Town's stormwater projects, billing, and policies, please visit:

<https://colchestervt.gov/1837/Stormwater>

General Inquiries: (802)-264-5621

Water Quality Hotline: (802)-264-5628

Only runoff should go into storm drains! Never dump paint, oil, chemicals, or other substances into a storm drain. Those materials can contaminate waterways, threatening the health of species that call our streams, rivers, and lakes home.

Please report suspicious activity to the Town's water quality hotline.

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CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Town of Colchester

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



With the return of warmer days, the Public Works Department has been preparing for another busy season of clean water projects. This issue includes:

- ◆ Clean water project updates
- ◆ Green Up Day
- ◆ How you can make an impact
- ◆ Sanitary and storm sewers
- ◆ Beach sampling

? Did You Know ?

A majority of the Town's stormwater system is underground. The Public Works Department maintains 21.5 miles of stormwater pipes, 1150 catch basins, 124 outfalls, 188 culverts, and 8 ponds.

Make An Impact!

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Protect local
waterways

Sign up!

adopt-a-drain.org

Adopt a Drain

Since it's Chittenden County debut in April 2022, Adopt-a-Drain has welcomed 181

Participants in Vermont who have adopted 278 total drains, with over 3,400 pounds of debris collected! Visit VT.adopt-a-drain.org today!

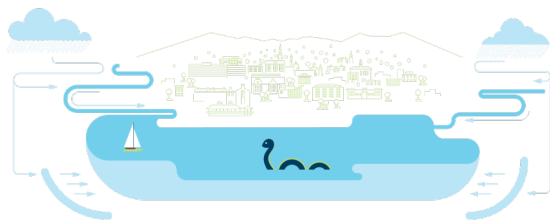
Pick Up Pet Waste

When pet waste is washed into our streams, rivers and lakes, it releases nutrients into the water. Lack of oxygen and excess nutrients can kill fish and cause toxic algae growth. Pet waste also contains *Escherichia coli* (E.coli), which is a harmful bacteria and can lead to beach closures in warmer months. Yuck!

Water Quality Friendly Car Care

Washing your car at home directly on pavement may send detergents directly into the stormwater system. You can reduce your impact by washing your car on your lawn or, go to a commercial car wash where the rinse water gets treated.

For more tips on how to help protect water quality, visit Rethink Runoff's webpage at <https://rethinkrunoff.org>



Stormwater Projects

Laura Lane Stormwater Pond



Photo: Laura Lane Stormwater Pond

This project was completed in the fall of 2024. A local contractor was hired to remove built up sediments and debris from the stormwater pond, improve the pond inlet pipe, and install a fence surrounding the pond.

Colchester Pond Road Project



Photo: Erosion project on Galvin Hill Road—2021

This summer, the Town plans to work on Colchester Pond Road to reduce erosion caused by stormwater. The ditches along the road near the pond will be lined with rocks to prevent sediments from washing away, reduce phosphorus loading into the lake, and reduce the risk of roadway damage during large storms. The photo above shows a similar project completed on Galvin Hill Road.

Sanitary Sewers and Storm Sewers

Sanitary sewers carry waste water from your home when you flush the toilet, take a shower, or do the dishes. This water gets treated either in your septic system or, at a waste water treatment plant outside of Colchester.

Storm sewer water (stormwater) is rain and snow melt that doesn't soak into the ground. Stormwater that runs off your road or driveway ends up in catch basins, pipes, or ditches along the road. This water eventually goes into a stream, river, or Lake Champlain.

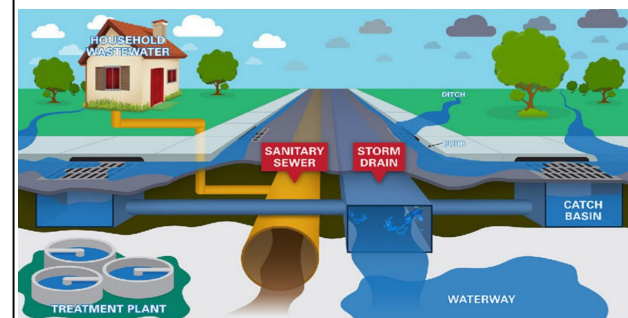
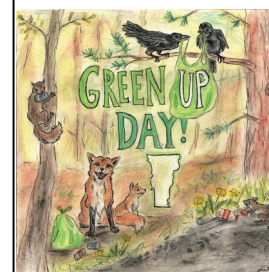


Diagram credit—Town of Harrison, NY

May 3: Green Up Day



Green up day is Saturday May 3! Bags will be available the weekend prior at the police station lobby. Please fill out the information sheet with name, number of people in your group and most importantly, the area you

are going to clean up. You can leave the bags along the road, and the town will pick them up on Monday, May 5. If you are unsure where to pickup, come to the police station Saturday May 3 between 8AM and noon. Members of the Conservation Commission will be there to assist you. For more information, please email: greenupcolchestervt@gmail.com.