

2018 Grants

The stormwater utility has received **three** grants in fiscal year 2018 (7/1/17-6/30/18) totaling over \$350,000. These grants were made possible because the utility can provide the 20% cash match needed:

Stormwater Improvements along Shore Acres / Cedar Ridge Rd

The stormwater utility was awarded \$295,200 in grant funding to design and construct stormwater improvements in the Shore Acres and Cedar Ridge neighborhoods. Engineering and design work is expected to take place in the summer/fall of 2018, with construction tentatively planned for the 2019 season. Stay tuned for more information about this project!

Phosphorus Control Planning

The stormwater utility was awarded \$40,000 to design a Phosphorus Control Plan for town properties. This Plan is a new water quality requirement of the Town's federal stormwater permit. This grant will help us plan water quality improvements for Town properties and expected to be completed by 2020.

Stormwater Utility Grant

The Vermont Agency of Transportation provides grants of \$25,000 for communities that adopt a stormwater utility. These funds will be received in both 2018 and 2019 for a total of \$50,000. Funding will be used to replace a culvert on East Road this summer. For more information about this project, please see the "Upcoming Projects" portion of this newsletter.

Stormwater Website

Visit the town's stormwater website at:
www.colchestervt.gov/1837/Stormwater-Utility

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CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Town of Colchester

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



Photo by Timothy Kranz

As spring brings April showers, May flowers, and the potential for flash flooding, the Town's Clean Water Spring 2018 Newsletter is here to share information regarding:

- Upcoming Events & Projects
- Grant Funding Received in 2018
- Flood Safety Tips
- Stormwater Utility Updates
- Water Quality Testing

? Did You Know ?

The Town of Colchester participates in a FEMA program known as the Community Rating System, which provides our property owners a 10% discount on Flood Insurance premiums. We are rated an "8" which is the highest level in Vermont.

Spring Flooding Safety

As the snow melts each spring, the potential for flooding increases which brings threats to property, people, and public safety. A few important things to remember as spring begins in VT:

- Just 6 inches of moving water is enough to knock you off your feet; and 2 feet of water can sweep a vehicle away.
- Colchester has over 3,000 acres designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas by FEMA.
- Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S.
- Flood Watch means “Be Aware” as conditions are right for flooding in your area.
- Flood Warning means “Take Action” as flooding is either happening or will shortly.

For more information, visit www.ready.gov.



A look into a Town catch basin along Granite Creek Road.

These systems collect rainwater that runs off driveways, roads, and building roofs during storms, and transports the stormwater directly to nearby rivers, streams, or Lake Champlain.

Upcoming Events & Projects

- The Town is planning to replace a culvert on East Road this summer, between Pond Brook Rd and Woodridge Rd. Final dates have not been set, but **East Road will be closed to through traffic for approximately one week this July**. More information about this project will be shared after a contractor for the project has been selected.
- On **Monday, April 16 at 6:30PM** at Bay-side Activity Center, the Conservation Commission is hosting a Rain Garden Workshop. Come learn about how certain plants absorb rainfall, filter pollutants, and provide important bird and bee habitats. The event is free but donations are accepted to support Colchester Blooms. To RSVP please call 802-264-5621 or email kadams@colchestervt.gov.

Water Quality Testing

Water quality sampling is performed each summer by Town staff. Twice a week, 12 samples from 9 different sites are tested for e. coli bacteria to ensure that levels are below VT acute health standards of 235 units per 100 milliliters.

If samples taken from swimming areas have unsafe e.coli levels, the affected beach will have signs posted, warning of high levels, until new tests come back with safe counts. We do not close our beaches, but inform the public of high e.coli readings in this way.

Additional information including maps and prior season test results can be found on the Town’s stormwater utility website.

Stormwater Utility Updates

The stormwater utility is up and running in its first year of operations. Staff has been successful in securing over \$350,000 in grants in our first year, and staff has completed over 87 hours of training related to stormwater and roadway management.

Budget

The stormwater utility budget is reviewed annually by the Board of Sewer Commissioners, which is the acting Selectboard. The Town owns 279 stormwater outfalls, 314 catch basins, and 2,282 pipelines. The utility budget also funds the following items with the ultimate goal of improving water quality:

- Summer water quality testing at 13 sites
- Street sweeping and catch basin cleaning
- 2 fulltime operations/maintenance workers
- 1 technical position that oversees the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater systems
- Town stormwater permits, which cost \$20,000 annually
- Preparation of stormwater management plans
- Participation in regional educational efforts (please visit ReThinkRunoff.org for more info)
- Capital construction funding of \$300,000 annually, for use on large projects and unexpected emergencies

Right: Town staff replace a catch basin in a Colchester neighborhood last summer.

