

Winter Salting Tips

While use of road salt improves safety conditions in winter ice and snow, overuse of salt can have negative effects on water bodies, aquatic plants and animals, and can damage metal and concrete. Testing data from around Vermont indicates that road salt is accumulating in our waterways. While public safety is of the utmost importance, we also value our surrounding ecosystems and work hard to minimize the impacts of our maintenance programs.

Our primary salt trucks are equipped with computerized spreader controls that carefully control the amount of salt being placed on our roadways. We also closely monitor temperatures and other storm conditions to ensure we are using road salt as efficiently as we can. This not only minimizes environmental impacts, but also saves tax payers thousands of dollars in salt costs.

As a property owner, you can also take steps to minimize impacts to our environment. If you are planning to use salt this winter around your property, please consider the following:

- Salt should be stored in airtight containers to minimize loss and maximize effectiveness
- Pre-treat walkways before the storm hits to limit post-storm usage
- Shovel early after a storm to minimize need for de-icing agents
- Only use on impervious surfaces, never on lawns, or near wetlands or surface waters

Stormwater Utility Information

The Town's stormwater utility began in 2017 as part of the Malletts Bay Initiative. The utility implements clean water programs, manages capital projects, and oversees regulations designed to improve and protect the community's water resources. For more info:

www.colchestervt.gov/1837/StormwaterUtility

Water Quality Hotline: **(802)-264-5628**

General stormwater inquiries: **(802)-264-5620**

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CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Town of Colchester
Stormwater Utility

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER FALL 2020



Above: A fall scene from a Lakeside bench at Bayside Park.

As the leaves change and we ready for winter, here is the latest Colchester Stormwater Utility Clean Water Newsletter from the Department of Public Works. In this edition of the newsletter, learn about:

- Phase II Condition Assessment Update
- Fall Utility Project Updates
- Winter Salting Tips
- Spring 2021 Billing Information

? Did You Know ?

The Department of Public Works maintains over 21.5 miles of stormwater piping in Colchester.

Phase II Condition Assessment

Phase II of a Townwide Stormwater Condition Assessment is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. Phase I was completed in December of 2018, when GPS information was collected and video was taken of town stormwater pipes in order to help staff identify needed repairs and upgrades. At that time, a number of pipes were identified for cleaning to ensure stormlines continue to function properly during storm events.

Phase II was begun this fall and involves the cleaning of almost 25,000 linear feet of underground stormwater pipes. Also to be completed this fall is performing video assessments of these newly cleaned pipe segments. This will complete the Town's video collection efforts, and we will use this information to identify any needed repairs and plan future investments in the public stormwater system.



Above: Example of a video taken during Phase I in 2018.

This phased project represents an investment of over \$336,000 in the Town's stormwater system. Both phases of the project have received federal grants, totaling over \$205,000. The remaining project costs (including all cleaning work) have been funded through stormwater utility fees.

Ongoing Water Quality Projects

Fall Public Works Clean Water Projects

- Phase II of a Townwide Condition Assessment will be complete by the end of this year. Total Phase II costs are approximately \$176,000, which includes \$80,000 in grant funding.
- We are finalizing the Town's phosphorus control plan, a requirement of the Town's federal stormwater permit. This must be completed by April 2021.
- Roadway improvements for Coon Hill and Galvin Hill Roads to address erosion and drainage issues are currently under design, with construction planned in 2021.
- Conceptual plans for a roundabout at the Bay-side Intersection are currently under design. This will involve stormwater improvements designed to capture and treat runoff from the roadway before it is directed to Lake Champlain.
- Improvements to a town-owned stormwater outfall on Smith Hollow Creek are currently under design. This project is funded through a Clean Water Block Grant.
- The Moorings Stream/Shore Acres Stormwater Project has entered the Right-of-Way phase. This project involves a series of water quality improvements to help filter and treat stormwater runoff before it reaches Lake Champlain. Project Engineering plans are currently under review by the VT Agency of Transportation, who is providing grant funding to complete the project. More information about this project can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ShoreAcresProject>

Water Quality Projects (Cont.)

Lower Mountain View Dr Culvert Replacement

Last month, we completed a culvert replacement project on Lower Mountain View Drive. The metal culverts approximately 500 feet from the intersection of Lower Mountain View Dr and Roosevelt Highway were replaced with plastic culverts, and the inlet and outlet areas surrounding the pipes were upgraded. A big THANK YOU to drivers and surrounding property owners for their patience as we completed this important project.

Below: Crews installing the new culvert headwall on the inlet side of Sunnyside Brook in October 2020.



Spring 2021 Billing Information

Annual stormwater utility invoices will be mailed in January 2021 with payments due February 22, 2020. These fees fund critical system repairs, keep the town stormwater system in compliance with state and federal water quality requirements, plan for future upgrades and improvements, perform water quality testing, and explore new stormwater treatment programs like BLUE[®]CVT (side panel).

Commercial properties are eligible to apply for credits to reduce their site fee. For more information about credits, visit the utility webpage listed on the front page of the newsletter.