



**Colchester**  
VERMONT

# Stormwater in Malletts Bay

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[www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov)

## Malletts Bay Scoping Study

The Malletts Bay Stormwater Scoping Study was completed in 2017. The study evaluated the areas that drain directly into Malletts Bay as well as the watersheds that also drain to Malletts Bay via the **Moorings Stream, Crooked Hollow Creek, and Smith Hollow Creek** to evaluate what improvements will be needed to meet state stormwater management standards. In total, recommended improvements have estimated costs of approximately **\$7 million**. More information on the Scoping Study, which also involved evaluating transportation and pedestrian improvements can be found [HERE](#).

Recommendations were developed for each watershed with the goals of:

- *Reducing public roadway and private property damage due to insufficient, aging or missing stormwater measures,*
- *Reducing the volume of stormwater, sediments, and phosphorus currently being discharged to Malletts Bay, and*
- *Reducing erosion and stream bank instability in waterways leading to Malletts Bay.*

Improvements in the Moorings Stream watershed are the first to move forward, funded through a combination of a \$375,000 grant from the VT Agency of Transportation and stormwater utility funds. Below is more information about the recommendations for each watershed.

**Moorings Stream:** This watershed includes approximately 78 acres and is home to the Shore Acres neighborhood, an area known for having unstable soils and high groundwater levels. As a result, the recommendations for this area include installation of gravel wetlands, upgrades to the existing stormwater system of catch basins and piping, and expansion of stormwater structures to areas that do not currently have them. Currently, this grant-funded project is in the Right-of-way phase, with construction expected in late 2022/early 2023.

**Smith Hollow Creek:** This watershed includes approximately 184 acres and includes neighborhoods off of Williams and Blakely Roads. Recommendations for these areas include increasing the size of pipes in the system, stabilizing and rock-lining areas where stormwater is conveyed to the Creek, and installing green infrastructure to improve water quality. Design of improvements in this watershed will begin in 2022, funded through a Clean Water Block Grant. Total implementation costs are expected to be \$1.9 million.

**Crooked Hollow Creek:** This watershed includes 79 acres and the properties along Bay Road and the Orchard Drive subdivision. Some of these roadways are served by grass



channels, so recommendations include installing bio-retention areas to collect and filter water before they enter conveyance channels, and upgrading the sizes of existing structures and pipes. This work has an estimated cost of \$948,000.

**Direct Drainage via West Lakeshore Drive:** This watershed is 58 acres and was evaluated in concert with transportation improvements also planned for this corridor, including the installation of a multi-use path from Prim Rd to Bayside Park. The new multi-use path will leave a 7” wide greenbelt between the roadway and path in which there are \$1.2 million of stormwater improvements recommended.

**Direct Drainage via East Lakeshore Drive:** This watershed is approximately 163 acres and is the most constrained area in the Study, meaning the area is heavily developed with impervious surfaces but limited public right-of-way in which to construct stormwater improvements. Recommendations for this area include installing curbing along sections of the roadway to direct water to upsized piping systems, reducing impervious surfaces where possible, upgrading existing outfalls to the Lake, and installing bio-retention areas to hold and filter water. These recommendations are expected to cost \$2.4 million.

## Other Town Stormwater Programs

**Water Quality Testing:** The town performs water quality testing at public beaches and recreation areas in the summer to ensure they are safe for swimming and other recreational sports. Tests are taken twice weekly at 13 locations. More information on this program including testing locations, and both past and current year test results can be found here: <https://colchestervt.gov/487/Water-Quality-Results>

**Residential Retrofit Incentive Program:** We recently completed a third year of this financial rebate program for property owners who install stormwater improvements on their property. During that time, 68 properties were evaluated with 15 projects implemented overall, mitigating over 11,000 square feet of impervious surface. 2021 was the last year the Town offered this program, as the grant funding used to support it has been fully expended.

**Adopt a Drain:** Colchester is one of five communities in Chittenden County rolling out this new program for residents in 2022. Stay tuned for more information!

Example of a residential rain garden

