

BLUE ® CVT Rebate Program Wins Award!

The Town recently received a **Best Stormwater Idea in New England** “Stormy Award” for our BLUE ® CVT program! The New England Stormwater Collaborative seeks to recognize “simple, imaginative, unique, and inventive” stormwater ideas, and our program was recognized in the Funding and Outreach category.

The BLUE®CVT program provides watershed education and financial rebates to residential property owners who make drainage improvements that either reduce the amount of runoff leaving their site, or improve the quality of water leaving their site. This past summer was the third year of the program, where we offered a bonus of \$100 to the owner who constructed the largest installation! In all, the program has evaluated 68 properties and led to the mitigation of 7,327 sq ft of impervious surface. Stay tuned next summer to see how the program evolves.

BEST
STORMWATER IDEA
IN NEW ENGLAND
STORMY AWARD
-2020-

Town of Colchester, VT

Stormwater Information

The Town implements clean water programs, reviews development applications, manages capital projects, and oversees regulations designed to improve and protect the community’s water resources.

For more info please visit:

www.colchestervt.gov/1837/StormwaterUtility

Water Quality Hotline: (802)-264-5628

General stormwater inquiries: (802)-264-5620

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446

PRST STD

US POSTAGE

PAID

Burlington, VT
05401

Permit#478

ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Town of Colchester
Public Works Department

CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER FALL 2021



Welcome to another beautiful fall season—now is the time for hot apple cider, pumpkin carving, and crunching through leaves at Bayside Park, pictured above. The Public Works Department has been busy working on clean water projects and planning for future field seasons. This newsletter includes:

- Info on Completed Construction Projects
- Planned 2022 Improvements
- Grant Funding Received
- Spring 2022 Billing Information

? Did You Know ?

In 2020, Town street sweepers collected 925 cubic yards of material on public roadways (132 dump trucks full!). Removing this leaf and other debris is important to keep drainage networks functioning.

Ongoing Assessment Projects

Culvert Assessment

This fall, Public Works staff is preparing to inspect each Town-owned roadway culvert to evaluate the condition of the structure, identify any areas of erosion, determine whether the culvert should be upsized in the future to build resiliency into the system with regard to flooding/heavy rain events, and use that information to prepare a funding plan for upcoming improvements.



Above: Drainage outfall in good condition.

Outfall Assessment

The Town received a \$12,000 grant from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to perform a similar assessment for Town-owned outfalls, which are discharge points for roadway drainage. It is important to make sure erosion is not occurring at these locations that are near or sometimes directly adjacent to waterways. This information will help prioritize future maintenance efforts by Town Highway crews and identify locations that are good candidates for upgrades.

Completed Water Quality Projects

– Galvin Hill and Coon Hill Drainage Work

New stone lined ditches and culverts were installed along approximately 1,350 feet of roadway on Coon Hill Road, and 1,000 feet of Galvin Hill Road. This \$66,000 project was 80% grant funded and will improve drainage and reduce erosion on these roads.

– Stormwater Pipe Lining

In the spring of 2021 over 1,000 feet of stormwater piping was fitted with rigid, heavy duty liners. This maintenance strategy is roughly 4x less costly than digging up older pipes to replace them, allowing each dollar to be stretched further and reducing traffic impacts to the traveling public. This annual program will resume next year with another 10 pipe segments to be completed.

– Police Station Outfall Improvements

100% grant funded outfall repair work was completed this summer behind the Colchester Police Station (photo below shows completed project). These upgrades ensure the stormwater system serving the Town office complex is functioning in a way that protects Smith Creek from erosion.



Water Quality Information

FAQ: Why is managing phosphorus important?

Phosphorus is one of the primary water quality challenges in Lake Champlain. Found in lawn fertilizers, manure, human and animal waste, riverbank soils, and stormwater runoff, phosphorus causes algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth. When there is too much phosphorus in the water, certain plants or algae can dominate the ecosystem and choke out other species. Excessive nutrients can cause cyanobacteria blooms, also known as blue-green algae, and can be harmful to aquatic species, other animals, and humans.

All communities in Vermont must comply with Municipal Road General Permit requirements, which requires upgrades and maintenance of roadway drainage networks to reduce erosion. Recent upgrades on Galvin Hill and Coon Hill Roads (see other panel) were for purposes of meeting these requirements. Colchester has also developed a Phosphorus Control Plan to identify additional ways we can reduce our nutrient loading to the Lake from roadways and other impervious surfaces. These projects funded by stormwater fees and grants received must be constructed by 2036 to meet state mandates. Projects include the installation of treatment facilities like gravel wetlands and bioretention areas in key locations that treat stormwater runoff prior to reaching local waterways.

Spring 2022 Billing Information

Annual stormwater invoices will be mailed in January 2022 with payments due February 25, 2022. These fees fund critical system repairs, keep the town stormwater system in compliance with permits, plan for future upgrades and improvements, perform water quality testing, and explore new stormwater treatment programs like BLUE[®]CVT.

Commercial properties are eligible for credits to reduce their site fee. For more information about credits, visit the webpage listed on the back panel.