



Vermont's Clean Water Initiative

Taking Action to Restore Local Streams and Lake Champlain

Vermonters love Lake Champlain and the streams that flow into it and are deeply committed to safeguarding the health of these waters. Lake Champlain in particular, is an important economic asset for the region. A healthy Lake supports fishing and other recreational uses, bolsters tourism and property values, delivers safe drinking water, and sustains a healthy ecosystem for future generations to enjoy.

The state of Vermont and its partners have worked for decades to reduce discharges, stormwater runoff, and erosion that carry phosphorus pollution — the greatest threat to a clean Lake Champlain. However, more needs to be done to restore the Lake.

The state's Clean Water Initiative is a renewed and comprehensive effort that targets the remaining principal sources of phosphorus runoff at the source, including from agricultural lands, developed lands, gravel roads, logging roads, and eroding stream banks. The Clean Water Initiative is a call to action for everyone — farmers, businesses, municipalities and towns, loggers, and landowners — to work together to restore local streams and ultimately Lake Champlain.

This factsheet summarizes actions to reduce phosphorus pollution from stormwater runoff from hard surfaces other than roads, such as parking lots. See Factsheet #3 for information on reducing phosphorus pollution from road-related stormwater runoff. Also see other factsheets that describe actions to reduce phosphorus from other sources.



Expanded stormwater treatment pond



Green stormwater infrastructure receives



Actions to Reduce Stormwater Sources of Phosphorus Pollution:

- Put in place more stormwater runoff controls at existing developments;
- Develop and go forward with more municipality-wide stormwater runoff control plans in communities that are discharging a significant amount of untreated stormwater into rivers and other waterways;
- Reduce phosphorus pollution from new development by updating the state standards contained in the Vermont State Stormwater Manual — the rulebook for new development projects that require a state stormwater permit;
- Provide municipalities support in identifying, prioritizing and initiating stormwater control needs;
- Help municipalities, developers and property owners reduce stormwater runoff by employing *green stormwater infrastructure* — actions that mimic or employ natural processes to capture, reuse or filter stormwater and minimize the cost of collecting, transporting and treating stormwater runoff.