

# Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)

## December 2023 Newsletter



Here are some important updates on the Vermont Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) schedule and permit requirements, training opportunities, and resources available to municipalities in 2023 and 2024.

### 2023 Recap

DEC re-issued the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) for the second permit cycle in early 2023. All MRGP municipalities applied for permit renewal. Renewed permits expire January 25, 2028.

Jim Ryan retired as the Municipal Roads Program Coordinator after a 23-year career with DEC. Evelyn Boardman is the new Coordinator ([evelyn.boardman@vermont.gov](mailto:evelyn.boardman@vermont.gov); 802-636-7396).

2023 was a uniquely challenging year for municipalities across Vermont. Anecdotal reports and field observations from road crews, contractors, and DEC staff indicate that areas with properly sized and installed MRGP practices withstood flood damage from erosion better than areas without MRGP practices. MRGP and VTrans Town Road and Bridge Standards make roads more resilient to washouts by:

- Spreading out or disconnecting concentrated and erosive flows
- Movement of water in ditches and culverts
- Protecting against erosion with vegetation and stone
- Sizing culverts for active channels



### 2023 Closeout

- ✓ Check for overdue fees and annual reports on the [Administrative Compliance Status Dashboard](#).
- ✓ Check MRGP implementation compliance status using the [MRGP Implementation Table Portal](#) Progress Report. Municipalities were required to upgrade 15% of non-compliant hydrologically-connected road segments to MRGP standards by December 31, 2022.
- ✓ Report upgrades using the MRGP Survey 123 [mobile application](#) or the MRGP web-based [Reporter Tool](#).
- ✓ Field workers should delete and re-download [offline areas](#) and [survey forms](#). Existing areas will no longer work after Feb. 12, 2024. The maps now include segment and outlet status layers that are updated weekly.
- ✓ Stabilize bare or unvegetated areas. The MRGP requires stabilization of bare or unvegetated areas following construction and soil disturbance on hydrologically-connected road segments. These areas shall be revegetated with seed and mulch, hydroseeded, or stone lined within 5 days of disturbance of soils or, if precipitation is forecast, sooner.

## Due Dates and Requirements for 2024

Due Date	Requirement	Fee
April 1, 2024	Annual Fee	\$500, \$1350, or \$1800 - Prorated based on population and road miles
	Annual Report Form	-
	<b>2023 MRGP Implementation Reporting:</b> Report upgrades to 7.5% of non-compliant segments, including 20% of Very High Priority Segments	-

### MRGP Annual Fees – Due April 1, 2024

MRGP municipalities are required to pay an annual fee (\$500 or \$1,350 or \$1,800 prorated fee based on population and road miles) before April 1, 2024. Towns will be sent a reminder email from DEC with additional information in early spring 2024. Find your municipality's fee on the list of [prorated MRGP annual fees](#).

### MRGP Annual Reports – Due April 1, 2024

MRGP municipalities are required to submit a completed and signed one-page Annual Report form each year. DEC will be sending an email notice about this form in early 2024.

### 2023 MRGP Implementation Reporting – Due April 1, 2024

MRGP municipalities are required to upgrade to MRGP standards:

- 7.5% of non-compliant hydrologically-connected road segments each year.
- 20% of Very High Priority segments as part of the 7.5% upgrades each year.

These numbers will vary according to your REI results. Please keep track of where road segments have been upgraded and make those updates through the [DEC Survey 123 mobile application](#) or the MRGP web-based [Reporter Tool](#) for desktop. If you need help, attend a Virtual Road Roundtable training, check out the [MRGP website](#), or contact the MRGP Coordinator.



### Road Erosion Inventory (REI) Reassessment – Due by October 31, 2027

A new townwide road erosion inventory (REI) assessment of hydrologically-connected road segments is due before October 31, 2027. Annual implementation requirements are based on the baseline REI until towns fully complete the new REI reassessments and submit the [REI Amendment Form](#) on [ANROnline](#) with the \$240 processing fee. Once complete, new implementation requirements will be based on the new assessment numbers.

# Upcoming Trainings in 2024 (Dates to be Announced)

## Future Trainings to be Announced on the VT Local Roads Listserv:

- **Virtual and In-Person Road Roundtable Forums (April and May 2024):** DEC and the [VTrans Local Roads Program](#) will be offering a series of Road Round Table Forums in 2024. Check the VTrans Local Roads Program website for specific dates and registration of upcoming MRGP-related trainings.
- **Virtual Implementation Reporting Training (February 2024):** Learn how to download and use DEC's MRGP REI applications and web-based tool to re-assess road segments and report upgrades. Learn how to view, interpret and use your town's REI data in the MRGP database portal and mapping tools to assist in implementation of road practices as required by the MRGP.
- **Virtual Administrative Requirements Training (NEW in February and March 2024):** Learn how to submit MRGP Annual Fees and Annual Reports using ANROnline. Learn to check administrative and implementation requirements.
- **In-Person Road Erosion Inventory (REI) Trainings**

## Financial Assistance Available

### Municipal Grants-in-Aid (GIA) for road upgrades to MRGP standards:

The Municipal Grants-in-Aid program made awards to towns in 2023, for funding under SFY24. It is anticipated that VTrans will again send letters to towns announcing the next round of GIA funding in early 2024 for implementation of projects under SFY25, with awards for implementation in the 2024-2025 field season. Towns receive grant funding to implement road best management practices that help them bring connected roads up to MRGP standards. For more information visit the [Municipal Grant-in-Aid website](#) or contact Ross Gouin at [ross.gouin@vermont.gov](mailto:ross.gouin@vermont.gov).

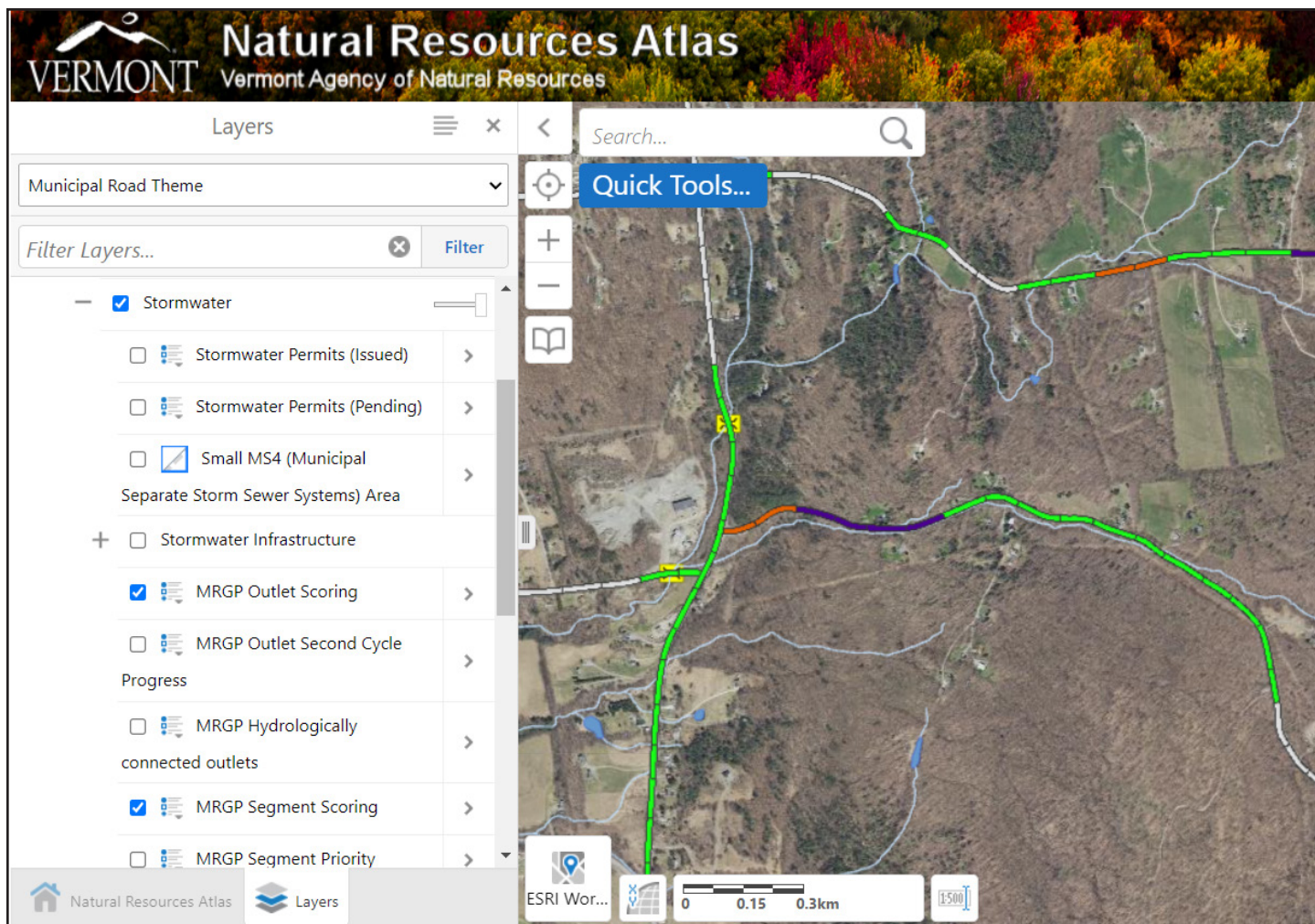
### VTrans Better Roads Grants (Applications Due December 20, 2023):

VTrans Better Roads Grant funding can be used to implement road best management practices (Category B) that will assist municipalities in meeting MRGP implementation requirements. For more information visit the [Better Roads Grant Program](#) or contact Ross Gouin at [ross.gouin@vermont.gov](mailto:ross.gouin@vermont.gov).



## Spotlight: MRGP Resources on the ANR Atlas

The [ANR Atlas](#) has recently been updated with new MRGP layers. Select the Municipal Road Theme on the Layers tab to bring up segment and outlet scoring. These scores are updated weekly with new inventory results. Turn on additional MRGP layers by expanding the Stormwater menu. These include segment priority and assessment progress for this permit term.



**For more information about the MRGP, head to our MRGP website or reach out to one of us:**

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>

### **Evelyn Boardman**

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### **Ryan Knox**

Agency of Digital Services, for questions about the MRGP Survey 123 app, Collector map layer, the ANR Natural Resources Atlas Municipal Road Theme, and MRGP Reporter web-based tool  
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