



Gibbons Elementary School Stormwater Project



We're working hard to clean up Stoughton's waterways!

Like most towns in Massachusetts, Stoughton has many acres of impervious pavement and concrete, which are a major contributor to water pollution.

When rain hits these hard surfaces, it washes pollutants like pet waste, bacteria, oil, litter, fertilizer, and grass clippings into storm drains, which lead directly to local waterways. This untreated, contaminated water is called polluted stormwater runoff.

To help to clean up contaminated runoff and keep pollution away from Steep Hill Brook, the Stoughton DPW and

Engineering Dept. recently partnered with the Neponset River Watershed Association to build three new stormwater management structures at the Gibbons School.

The structures are constructed with special plants and soils that collect and filter polluted stormwater runoff. They have also been designed so that students and teachers can interact with them and learn about stormwater management.

Ask a 4th grader! Gibbons School 4th graders recently had a classroom presentation about stormwater and are quite knowledgeable on the topic. More lessons are planned for the spring.



“Stormwater runoff” is not treated, and bacteria and chemicals wash into waterways affecting the health of our drinking water, wildlife, and recreation.

A simple and beautiful way to keep local waterways clean is to build rain gardens on your property to capture driveway, roof, or street runoff.



You can make a difference!

The Stoughton Department of Public Works appreciates your help in protecting local waterways by preventing polluted stormwater runoff around your home.

Learn about building rain gardens, diverting downspouts, and other green solutions at neponset.org/soak-up-the-rain or call the Neponset River Watershed Association at 781-575-0354.

For more information about the Gibbons School Project, please contact the Stoughton DPW at 781-344-2112.



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A few simple changes around your home can help prevent stormwater pollution.

Pick Up After Your Pet



Bacteria from pet waste is another **major source of pollution**. Always pick up after your pet and throw waste into a trash can.

Use Pervious Pavement



For patios or driveways, use **pervious concrete, asphalt, or permeable pavers** that allow rain to pass right through to the soil.

Be Smart About Lawn Care



Lawn fertilizers, grass clippings and leaves are high in phosphorous, a major pollutant. Limit fertilizers and always sweep off of pavement.

Build a Rain Garden



Rain gardens are shallow, **vegetated "basins" about six inches deep** that collect and absorb runoff from roofs, sidewalks, or streets.

Install a Rain Barrel



Install a rain barrel to capture roof runoff and store it for later use. Rain is **free of chlorine**, and great for watering plants, or washing garden tools.

Wash Cars on Lawn



Washing cars on paved driveways creates runoff that can flow into storm-drains. Wash cars on the lawn instead, so that water seeps into the ground.

Redirect Runoff



Redirect runoff from your roof, driveway, or even the street onto a **lawn or wooded area** where it can soak into the ground naturally.

Use Safer Ice Melt



Use "greener" ice melting products to minimize the harmful effects of salt on our environment. "Pet safe" products are a good choice.

For more information about preventing polluted stormwater runoff around your home, contact Neponset Watershed Association Environmental Scientist, Chris Hirsch at hirsch@neponset.org or 781-575-0354 x302.

Learn more at www.neponset.org



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