

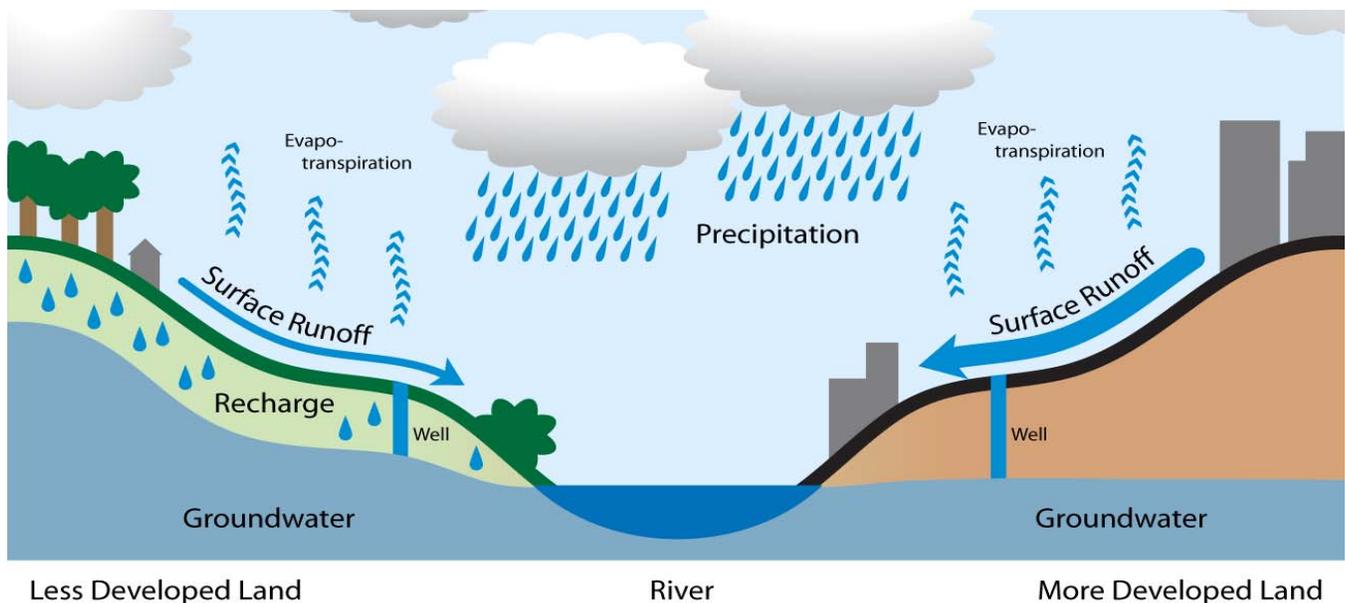
Frequently Asked Questions about the Stormwater & Erosion Control By-Law

In May 2011, Weston adopted a Stormwater & Erosion Control By-Law at Town Meeting. The goal of the By-Law is to ensure that development, redevelopment, and land disturbance activities do not increase stormwater runoff. Regulating stormwater protects homeowners, abutting wetlands and properties from the likelihood of experiencing increased flooding problems and erosion from nearby construction sites.

Why is it important to control stormwater? When land is cleared or built upon, stormwater which once infiltrated into ground must go somewhere else. Oftentimes, this creates adverse impacts to abutting properties, wetlands and streams, as more stormwater, dirt, or pollutants run offsite. In fact, stormwater runoff represents the state's single largest source responsible for water quality impairments. In an attempt to lessen these impacts, Massachusetts has mandated that towns regulate stormwater runoff.

What types of projects trigger this By-Law? This By-Law requires the following types of land disturbance and construction activities to apply for a Stormwater Permit:

- Creation of new impervious surfaces greater than 750 square feet
- Construction of new or replacement dwelling
- Reconstruction of public or private way (and parking)
- Reconstruction of existing non-residential parking lots and driveways great than 2,500 square feet
- Repair/replacement of septic systems
- Land disturbance (e.g. tree cutting, grading, earthwork) greater than 5,000 square feet
- Addition/on-site redistribution of greater than 250 cubic yards of earth material
- Land disturbance exceeding 20% of the parcel



Am I going to need a stormwater permit for maintaining my lawn or cutting a few trees in my backyard? No. Normal maintenance of lawns and gardens is exempt. Cutting of trees will only trigger a Stormwater Permit if you are clearing greater than 5,000 square feet or 20% of the total lot, whichever is less.

How do I Apply for a Stormwater Permit?

Please contact the Stormwater Engineer at: 781-786-5117 or Stormwater@westonmass.org. Applicants must to fill out an application, pay a fee, and demonstrate how stormwater and erosion is being managed during and after construction. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate that the rate of stormwater leaving a site does not increase after construction. With careful planning, stormwater can be directed to nearby vegetated areas or underground structures can be installed to collect the excess runoff.

Who Reviews the Stormwater Permit?

The Stormwater By-Law is administered by the Stormwater Permitting Authority (SWPA) which is comprised of the Town Planner, Conservation Administrator, Board of Health Director, Stormwater Engineer, and an appointed resident. In addition, Weston's Stormwater Engineer assists the SWPA in review and approval of the permits.

How long will it take to receive a Stormwater Permit?

As long as the Applicant can meet the requirements (performance standards) of the By-Law, a permit will be issued by the Stormwater Engineer within 21 days of a complete application submission. If an Applicant cannot meet the performance standards of the Stormwater By-Law, a hearing must be scheduled with the SWPA. Please see the By-law and Regulations for more information.

Where can I get additional information about the Stormwater Permitting Authority and the Stormwater By-Law? Please contact the Stormwater Engineer at: 781-786-5117 or Stormwater@westonmass.org. Information about the SWPA can By-Law can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/westonstormwater.

