Town of Agawam
Massachusetts

NPDES
Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System
Phase II Stormwater Permit

2006
Annual Report

Due:
May 1, 2006

Sumitted:
April 26, 2006

By
Mayor Richard A. Cohen

Town of Agawam

36 Main Street Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837

Tel. 413-786-0400 Fax 413-786-9927

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water Technical Unit
P.O. Box 8127
Boston, MA 02114

April 26, 2006

RE: Agawam Massachusetts
NPDES Phase II MS4 Permit
Annual Report 2005

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Town of Agawam is pleased to submit the enclosed Municipal Stormwater Management Program Annual Report for permit year three in order to comply with the NPDES Stormwater MS4 Permit requirements.

The enclosed information includes documentation of year one activities, a self-assessment of compliance with permit conditions, assessment of BMPs, assessment of measurable goals, assessment of progress towards achieving the measurable goals, summary of results of any information that has been collected and analyzed, discussion of activities for the next reporting cycle, discussion of changes in identified BMPs, and reference to any reliance on other entities for achieving measurable goals.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cohen,
Mayor

CC: MA D.E.P. - Div. of Watershed Management
John P. Stone, Dept. of Public Works
Georganne Hoyman, Engineering
Tracy DiMaio, Stormwater Coordinator
Debra Dachos, Planning
Henry Kozlowski, Conservation Commission

Town of Agawam

36 Main Street Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837

Tel. 413-786-0400 Fax 413-786-9927

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management
627 main St.
Worcester, MA 01608

April 26, 2006

RE: Agawam Massachusetts
NPDES Phase II MS4 Permit
Annual Report 2004

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Town of Agawam is pleased to submit the enclosed Municipal Stormwater Management Program Annual Report for permit year three in order to comply with the NPDES Stormwater MS4 Permit requirements.

The enclosed information includes documentation of year one activities, a self-assessment of compliance with permit conditions, assessment of BMPs, assessment of measurable goals, assessment of progress towards achieving the measurable goals, summary of results of any information that has been collected and analyzed, discussion of activities for the next reporting cycle, discussion of changes in identified BMPs, and reference to any reliance on other entities for achieving measurable goals.

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John P. Stone, Dept. of Public Works
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Tracy DiMaio, Stormwater Coordinator
Debra Dachos, Planning
Henry Kozlowski, Conservation Commission

Enter your transmittal number → WO79297
Transmittal Number

Your unique Transmittal Number can be accessed online: http://www.mass.gov/dep/counter/trasmfrm.shtml or call DEP's InfoLine at 617-338-2255 or 800-462-0444 (from 508, 781, and 978 area codes).

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Transmittal Form for Permit Application and Payment

1. Please type or print. A separate Transmittal Form must be completed for each permit application.

2. Make your check payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and mail it with a copy of this form to: DEP, P.O. Box 4062, Boston, MA 02211.

3. Three copies of this form will be needed.

Copy 1 - the original must accompany your permit application. **Copy 2** must accompany your fee payment. **Copy 3** should be retained for your records

4. Both fee-paying and exempt applicants must mail a copy of this transmittal form to:

DEP
P.O. Box 4062
Boston, MA
02211

*** Note:**
For BWSC Permits, enter the LSP.

A. Permit Information

MAR041001
1. Permit Code: 7 or 8 character code from permit instructions

General Permit MS4
2. Name of Permit Category

Annual Report
3. Type of Project or Activity

B. Applicant Information – Firm or Individual

Town of Agawam
1. Name of Firm - Or, if party needing this approval is an individual enter name below:

2. **Last Name** of Individual
3. **First Name** of Individual
4. MI

36 Main St.
5. Street Address

Agawam	MA	01001	413*786-0400	225
6. City/Town	7. State	8. Zip Code	9. Telephone #	10. Ext. #

John P. Stone
11. Contact Person

12. e-mail address (optional)

C. Facility, Site or Individual Requiring Approval

Town of Agawam
1. Name of Facility, Site Or Individual

2. Street Address

3. City/Town	4. State	5. Zip Code	6. Telephone #	7. Ext. #

8. DEP Facility Number (if Known)
9. Federal I.D. Number (if Known)
10. BWSC Tracking # (if Known)

D. Application Prepared by (if different from Section B)*

1. Name of Firm Or Individual

2. Address

3. City/Town	4. State	5. Zip Code	6. Telephone #	7. Ext. #

8. Contact Person
9. LSP Number (BWSC Permits only)

E. Permit - Project Coordination

1. Is this project subject to MEPA review? ☐ yes ☒ no
If yes, enter the project's EOEA file number - assigned when an Environmental Notification Form is submitted to the MEPA unit:

EOEA File Number

F. Amount Due

DEP Use Only

Permit No:

Rec'd Date:

Reviewer:

Special Provisions:

1. ☒ **Fee** Exempt (city, town or municipal housing authority)(state agency if fee is $100 or less).
There are no fee exemptions for BWSC permits, regardless of applicant status.
2. ☐ Hardship Request - payment extensions according to 310 CMR 4.04(3)(c).
3. ☐ Alternative Schedule Project (according to 310 CMR 4.05 and 4.10).
4. ☐ Homeowner (according to 310 CMR 4.02).

Check Number | Dollar Amount | Date

Organization: **Town of Agawam, Massachusetts**

PERMIT YEAR 3: 2006 ANNUAL REPORT **NPDES PERMIT # MAR 041 001**
Reporting Period: May 2005 – April 2006

MA DEP Transmittal # W 079297

NPDES Phase II Small MS4 General Permit

Annual Report

Part 1. General Information

Contact Person: John P. Stone **Title:** Superintendent
Department of Public Works

Telephone Number: 413-786-0400-x225

Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: Richard A. Cohen

Name: Richard A. Cohen

Title: Mayor

Date: April 25, 2006

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Organization: **Town of Agawam, Massachusetts**

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NPDES PERMIT # MAR 041 001

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Signature: _____

Name: Richard A. Cohen

Title: Mayor

Date: April 25, 2006

Part 2. Introduction

The following is the Town of Agawam Massachusetts Annual Report as required by the EPA NPDES Phase II Small MS4 General Permit Regulations. This report is for year three of the five year permit cycle. This report includes a self-assessment review of compliance with the permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of the selected BMPs, an assessment of the progress towards achieving the measurable goals, a summary of results of any information that has been collected and analyzed, a discussion of activities for the next reporting cycle, a discussion of any changes in identified BMPs or measurable goals, and reference to any reliance on another entity for achieving any measurable goal.

RELIANCE ON OTHER ENTITIES

INTER-CONNECTED MS4S - The Town of Agawam has interconnected MS4s within its boundaries as follows: Massachusetts Highway Department controls certain State numbered routes, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management controls Robinson State Park on the Westfield River, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission controls the Bondi's Island Regional Treatment Facility on the Connecticut and Westfield Rivers, and the City of Springfield owns and operates the Bondi's Island Landfill on the Westfield River. Each of these facilities have drainage systems which are separate from or interconnect to the Town of Agawam's drainage system but are under control and operation by entities other than the Town of Agawam.

VOLUNTEERS – Several of the permit conditions within the minimum control measure for public participation relies on the interest and participation of volunteers.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

The following is a summary of all activities which exceed the permit requirements and those requirements which have not been completed. The Town of Agawam requests that the following alterations of Minimum Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) permit requirements be adopted as new permit conditions. All Minimum Control BMPs not mentioned here are in compliance with the permit requirements.

BMP 1C – Local Cable Access – During permit year 3, three bulletins were posted on the cable access channel, rather than two. Bulletins included three informational flyers, including a flyer to encourage volunteers to mark stormdrains and " The Clean Solution to Dog Pollution" campaign on the bike path.

BMP 1D – Community Website – During permit year 3, the town website underwent a major re-construction. The stormwater area of the website was updated to be more user-friendly. In addition, updates included current links to the DEP's website as well as an online community survey.

BMP 1E – Press Releases – Four environmental education press releases were given to local media, as well as additional town initiatives regarding pollution prevention and litter.

BMP 1G – Community Outreach – Four flyers were distributed to local area residents, which included information regarding pollution prevention, water conservation, river walk pollution prevention and WRWS Public Forum information.

BMP 2A – Adopt–a-Road – The town successfully supported neighborhood cleanup days throughout the community. With the partnership of the Public School System, Conservation Commission and Beautification Committee, a number of location were cleaned by local volunteers.

BMP 2C – Storm Drain Markers – (BMP was previously known as Storm Drain Stenciling, now BMP 3G) With the help of a local cub scout troop, 130 storm drains were marked with markers. The town continues to seek volunteers for this project. All materials needed to mark all catch basins in town have been purchased and are available for use by volunteer groups.

BMP 2D Watershed Committee – During permit year 3, the Town of Agawam became actively involved with the Westfield River Watershed and Connecticut River Watershed Committees. Each committee is focusing on stormwater related events as well as increasing public education on a regional level.

BMP 3A – Mapping Stormwater Outfalls – As described in the year 2 annual report, the Town of Agawam with its consultant Tighe & Bond have applied for and been granted a State Revolving Funding (SRF) loan for the mapping of the drainage system town-wide.

Project Status :

Compilation of existing data - complete

Compilation of existing GIS data layers - complete

Update of existing GIS data layers - complete

Field locating of stormwater features – over 90% of known features

Compilation of stormwater mapping – over 90% complete

Records Management of record plans – over 90% complete

Hardware and Software Purchase – future task

Training – future task

A status map of the progress on the mapping project may be found in Appendix 3A.

BMP 3C – Illicit Discharge Plan Development – An Illicit Discharge Plan has been developed. It will be evaluated and updated on an annual basis.

The Non - Stormwater Discharge Ordinance has been offered to the City Council for adoption. Adoption of the ordinance is pending. Existing activities involve the investigation, and removal of illicit discharges, if the DPW is made aware of an issue based upon resident complaints or observation by DPW personnel. Removal of illicit discharges has been based upon existing authority by the DPW to do so. Also, drainage system GIS mapping development continues. Once the GIS mapping is complete, the continued evaluation of how to proceed with illicit discharge elimination will take place. The focus of the Illicit Discharge Plan is currently on a number of areas:

Site plan and subdivision plan review and inspections

Updating of plan review design requirements

Updating of the existing Storm Drain Permit Program at DPW

Illicit Discharge Ordinance development and adoption

GIS Mapping of drainage system

Public education

Development of new DPW structural and operations measures for the new DPW facility.

BMP 4A - Construction Runoff Ordinance – Draft Stormwater Ordinance amendments to the existing Water and Sewer Ordinance section were developed. These amendments included sections pertaining to erosion and sediment control. Additionally, all new subdivisions are required to include within the construction plan set, a separate sheet showing all construction phase erosion and sediment control measures for the site. Also, the developer is required to submit an informational copy of the project's SWPPP to the DPW as prepared for the NPDES construction phase N.O.I. for EPA. Construction site BMP educational materials have been displayed in the DPW offices. The material includes information on construction phase erosion and sediment control BMPs.

BMP 4B - Construction Plan Review – Draft Stormwater Ordinance amendments to the existing Water and Sewer Ordinance section were developed. These amendments include sections pertaining to review of construction plans and design standards. All construction sites within the jurisdiction of the Rivers Act and the Wetland Protection Act must submit plans to the Conservation Commission for review of proposed erosion and sediment control measures. These sites are inspected and overseen by the Conservation Commission. All new subdivision submittals are required to include construction phase erosion and sediment control measures within the construction plan set. The developers of all new subdivisions are required to submit the project's EPA NOI for construction activities, and give a courtesy copy of the SWPPP to the DPW. DPW works with the Conservation Commission, developers, and property owners to alleviate erosion control problems as they occur.

BMP 5A – Post Construction Runoff Ordinance – The draft storm water ordinance has been offered to the City Council for adoption. It includes new procedures in the Storm Drain Permit requirements addressing post construction runoff controls. Implementation of the revised ordinance is pending approval by the City Council.

5B – Site Plan Review – On going site plan review procedures continue. Implementation of new Storm Drain Permit procedures as described in the draft Stormwater Ordinance is pending adoption by the City Council.

5C – Post Construction Controls – The existing practice of requiring post construction controls is on going. Implementation of the new Storm Drain Permit procedures as described in the draft Stormwater Ordinance is pending adoption by the City Council.

BMP 6A – Municipal Maintenance Activity Program - During Permit Year 3, open space and landscape maintenance is proceeding according to the program. The anticipated move to the new DPW facility will allow additional improvement in municipal activities during year 4.

BMP 6B – Municipal Employee Training – Initial discussions and coordination amongst DPW supervisors has occurred. Many new operations procedures and pollution prevention activities will be completed at the new DPW facility. More formal training will occur at the new facility once DPW operations have moved. This is anticipated during permit year 4.

BMP 6C - Catch Basin Cleaning Program – The town successfully had 173 storm drains cleaned and maintained during permit year 3.

BMP 6F - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan / MSGP –The DPW has still not moved to the new DPW facility, which is now under construction. The move is anticipated during permit year 4. The Town of Agawam requests that this goal be amended to allow for the revised schedule and the construction schedule of the new DPW facility, which will reduce pollutant loading from current conditions in a cost effective manner. At this time the MSGP requirement for DPW yards is not currently in effect.

BMP 6F – Hazardous Waste Collection – The town successfully offered a Household Hazardous Waste Day Collection to the residents of Agawam due to available funding.

SUMMARY - The Town of Agawam has made its best effort to comply with all of the permit requirements for year three. Major accomplishments include the offering of extensive ordinance revisions to comply with the mandated ordinance requirements also further development of the new DPW facility where DPW operations will improve dramatically. Many of the permit requirements during years 3, 4, and 5 are dependent of ordinance adoption, which is pending.

PART 3. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MINIMUM CONTROL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

SECTION 1 – Public Education and Outreach

1A Educational Displays

The Town will post one educational display per year in the Municipal Building. Displays will contain information on stormwater related issues and may be obtained from an applicable governmental or other public agency, purchased from a distributor, or created by students working on projects under BMP #1B. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

Within the month of March 2006, a new educational display was posted in the Town Hall. The focus of the display was to reinforce seven simple steps the public could take to keep our water ways clean. In addition, reference flyers were available to the community, describing these seven steps in more detail.

See Appendix 1A for display contents.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Changes

Goal has been met. No changes proposed at this time.

Possible Future Activities

Next display to be posted in the Spring 2007.

1B Classroom Education

The Town will continue the science curriculum and encourage stormwater educational topics to be included in the curriculum for Grades 4 through 8. At minimum, the curriculum will include one presentation given to the students about stormwater related topics. The School Department will be responsible for this BMP, which will be implemented in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

To increase recycling awareness and reduce the number of pollutants and their impacts on storm water, the Agawam DPW has made aware and encouraged the public schools to participate in the following activities:

- The Thirsty Lizard Program
  Grades 5-7
  The Agawam Middle School was again encouraged to add the Thirsty Lizard Program to support their current curriculum and lesson plans in place regarding water conservation.

- The Go Green Initiative
  Grades Pre-K through 12
  The Town of Agawam adopted the Go Green Initiative within permit year 2. Schools continue to implement recycling within their school system, tracking their success through the year. During the first half of permit year 3, the schools successfully showed an increase in their recycling efforts.

- Student Essay Contest – Connecting Kids and the Environment
  Teachers of grades 4 – 8 were encouraged to have their students participate in the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Student Essay Contest, Connecting Kids and the Environment. An Agawam Middle School Student was chosen as a winning recipient, receiving a FREE fieldtrip for his classroom to the Springfield MRF.

  See Appendix 1B

- Anti-Litter Critters
  Grades 3-4
  This group of students was formed to address the litter problem around the schools. The Anti-Litter Critters are working on ways to educate not only their fellow students but the entire town.
  See Appendix 1E

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The Town of Agawam has completed this BMP and feels all the activities were effective in helping support the public school department in educating the students on reducing the amount of waste disposed of improperly within our town.

Possible Future Activities

In an effort to further help the School Department educate students on stormwater quality, the Town of Agawam DPW Solid Waste Coordinator will continue to help coordinate any presentations as staffing and funds allow.

1C Local Cable Access

The Town will post two informational bulletins per year on the local cable access channel. Bulletins will contain information on stormwater related issues and associated community activities. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

Summer 05, Stormdrain Marker Volunteer bulletin posted, asking for volunteers to help place stromdrain markers and help prevent illegal dumping in our community.

A Hazardous Waste Bulletin was posted in the Fall 05. Information on the bulletin included which items could be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Day event. In addition, it listed how to properly dispose of latex paint and used motor oil, two common illegally dumped waste products.

Spring 05 – "The Clean Solution to Dog Pollution" bulletin was posted, educating residents of the local campaign encouraging residents and visitors using the bike path to clean up after pets using the available dog waste bags.

Spring 06, a Stormwater informational bulletin was posted, educating residents regarding rainwater and stormdrains.

Spring 06, a littering campaign was posted, sponsored by the Clark School Anti-Litter Critter" group. This bulletin was posted to encourage all town residents to join the campaign for a cleaner Agawam.

See Appendix 1C for bulletin details.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No changes proposed to this BMP. The Town of Agawam will continue to post two bulletins on the local cable access channel to better educate the community regarding stormwater related issues.

Possible Future Activities

The Town of Agawam will continue to post two bulletins on the local cable access channel to better educate the community regarding stormwater related issues.

1D Community Website

The Town will post stormwater educational information on the community website two times per year. The website will include a link to DEP's website and updates annually or as needed. The DPW will be responsible for this BMP, which will be implemented in Year 1 and updated in Years 2 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

During Year 3, the Town of Agawam Website was under construction. During that time, updates were made to the Stormwater portion of the site. Changes were made in an effort to make searching for information more user friendly to the community.

During the construction, community surveys were also made available for download.

See Appendix 1D

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

This goal has been met. No changes are proposed.

Future Activities

The website will be updated within permit year 4.

1E Newspaper Press Releases

The Town will send out two press releases per year to the local newspaper. Press releases will contain information on stormwater related issues and community activities. The DPW will have responsibility for this, which will be utilized in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

The Town of Agawam has submitted the following Press Releases during permit year three.

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
  A guideline to what items are considered Hazardous Waste and how to properly dispose of them. See Appendix 1C

- Mandatory Recycling Enforcement
  Residents were reminded that there is a state mandatory waste ban, listing banned commodities such as cathode ray tubes. hazardous waste, tires, etc. See Appendix 1E

- Yard Waste Procedures
  A follow up to the new yard waste drop off procedures implemented during permit year 2. See Appendix 1E

- Clean Solution to Dog Pollution
  In an effort to keep the bike path clean of litter and dog waste, a " Clean Solution to Dog Pollution campaign was advertised and implemented.
  See Appendix 1E

- Anti-Litter Critters
  James Clark School "Anti-Litter Critter" group photo. First step in introducing the newly created student group fighting litter on the streets. See Appendix 1E.

- Regional Stormwater Program
  Local information regarding the town and regional effort to better education the communities regarding stormwater issues. See Appendix 1E.

- Public Forum – WRWS 5 Year Action Plan
  An invitation it attend the WRVW 5 Year Action Plan Public Forum was submitted by the PVPC. One of the forums are to be held at the Agawam Public Library. See Appendix 1E

- Rules focus on sewers and water
  Public notification informing the community that the city has published a new stormwater ordinance to the city council for approval. See Appendix 1E

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Goal has been met. No changes at this time.

Possible Future Activities

The Town of Agawam will continue to send out press releases throughout the year. Future press releases will include stormwater related activities and pollution prevention practices.

1F Informational Pamphlets

The Town will distribute one informational pamphlet or notice per year to every household Town-wide. The pamphlet or notice will likely be included with the mailing of the Consumer Confidence Report on water quality. Pamphlets will contain information on stormwater related issues and may be obtained from an applicable governmental or other public agency, purchased from a distributor, or possibly created by student's project under BMP #1B. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 1, 3, and 5.

Year 3 Activities

In June 2005, the Town of Agawam distributed their annual Agawam Aqua Almanac for FY05. Included in this mailing was an EPA flyer "Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff". This flyer was chosen to help educate our community on topics that were included on our stormwater survey.

See Appendix 1F

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Goal has been met. No changes proposed at this time.

Possible Future Activities

Next informational pamphlet to be distributed during year 5.

1G Community Outreach

The Town will attempt to distribute informational flyers at local community events as well as sponsor educational programs as funding becomes available. Flyers and programs will contain information on stormwater related issues as pertinent to the town. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 2-5.

Year 3 Activities

The DPW distributed 12 rain barrels to area residents. Unfortunately, the request for rain barrels was not as popular as we had hoped. We have determined that more education regarding the use of rain barrels is needed in our area. A future distribution may take place in conjunction with a bordering community.

The DPW distributed flyers to 244 residents at the local Household Hazardous Waste Event. Flyers included information on cleaning up pet waste and washing cars on grass or gravel instead of the street.

Available to the community, Westfield River Watershed Action Plan Public Forum Flyers were made available to the public at the Agawam Town Library, Main Lobby of Town Hall, Engineering Dept and DPW.

See appendix 1G

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Goal has been met. No changes proposed at this time.

Possible Future Activities

The Town will continue to distribute educational flyers at community events and sponsor educational programs as funding becomes available.

MINIMUM CONTROL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Section 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVMENT AND PARTICIPATION

2A Adopt-a-Road

The Town will continue to support neighborhood cleanup days by providing trash-bags and subsequent collection for voluntary roadside cleanups. The town will document locations targeted during each permit year as well as communication with potential volunteers. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be responsible for this BMP, which will be implemented in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

Due to the increased littering around area public schools the Clark Elementary School has formed an "Anti-Litter Critter" Group. This group was formed with the help of a member of the Beautification Committee. The group was initially formed to address the litter problem around school grounds. The group is currently working with other elementary schools to get the word out and encouraging their peers to form "Anti-Litter Critter" groups in their schools. With the help of the DPW, the group has successfully arranged for the following items to be displayed:

- 30"x30" No Littering signs at each of the Elementary School.
- "Help Keep Agawam Clean" stickers for 100 trash barrels throughout Agawam
- Cable Access Littering Campaign bulletin

Through the efforts of the Agawam Beautification Committee, the following areas were cleaned by local volunteers.

- Junior High School surrounding neighborhood
- Suffield Street – Trial Court Community Service Volunteers, See Appendix 2A
- Shoemaker Lane – Trial Court Community Service Volunteers
- Leonard Street
- Meadow Street, lower end
- Springfield Street – east Feeding Hills

- Pynchon Point – along the river bank – Beautification Committee, Conservation Commission and C.A.R.D. volunteers.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No Changes at this time.

Possible Future Activities

The DPW will continue to support the Clark School Anti-Litter Critter group.

In addition, as volunteers and funding are available, DPW will continue to support community cleanups.

2B Attitude Surveys

The Town will include a questionnaire with stormwater related questions with the mailing of the water bills. The questionnaire will be used to measure community awareness of stormwater issues and the success of the Public Education and Public Involvement components of the Stormwater Management Plan. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 2 and 5.

Year 3 Activities

The DPW created an Attitude Survey regarding Stormwater related information. Mailings began in late April 05 and concluded in September 05. Surveys were distributed in residential water bills. Residents were encouraged to complete the survey and mail back with their water payment or mail to DPW.

746 residents responded to the survey.

See Appendix 2B for sample survey and survey results.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No changes are proposed.

Future Activities

A questionnaire will be mailed to town residents during permit year five.

Responses from the survey will be reviewed and used in the planning of future educational topics.

2C Catch Basin Marking

The Town will support and supervise volunteer groups to mark catch basins with stormdrain markers. The DPW will supply guidance to volunteer groups regarding the installation of stormdrain markers, directions to locations, and all necessary materials. The Town's goal is to identify and mark 200 catch basins per year depending on volunteer participation. The DPW/volunteer groups will be responsible for this BMP, which will be implemented in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

In an effort to increase community participation and strengthen our volunteer programs, flyers were again posted at public library, town hall and the local cable access channel. See appendix 1C

The Town of Agawam had two groups contact the DPW with interest in participating in the marking of catch basins. See appendix 2C

The Agawam Stormwater Project Coordinator met with the Boy Scout Volunteer Group and passed out informational packets and kits for marking storm drains. Safety procedures and installation directions were reviewed. See appendix 2C.

Two dates were chosen for storm drain markings, unfortunately due to inclement weather, a limited number of stormdrains were marked and the project was postponed until the Spring/Summer of 06.

The following number of storm drains were marked on the streets listed below:

- Chestnut Lane - 9
- Sycamore Terrace – 3
- Cypress Terrace – 2
- Redwood Drive – 6
- River Road – 6
- Deer Run Road – 4
- Hunters Greene Circle – 6
- Line Street – 10
- Jamie Lane – 4

Lincoln Street - 5
Mill Street - 35
Franklin Street - 3
Windimere Drive - 4
Poplar Street - 5
William Street - 1
Rhodes Ave - 6
Highland Street - 6
Norris Street - 5

- Kensington Street – 7
- Colemore Street – 5
- Amherst Ave – 2
- Jessica Place – 3
- Springfield Street – 2
- Hastings Street – 2

TOTAL STORM DRAINS MARKED: 130

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The goal of supporting and supervising volunteers to mark catch basins during year three was accomplished, but due to inclement weather, events were postponed.

Possible Future Activities

DPW will continue to seek volunteers to continue marking storm drains.

The DPW will be contacting the Trial Court Community Service Program to see if marking storm drains falls within the groups volunteer activity parameter. This group has been used for community clean ups and was very successful. See appendix 2A.

2D Watershed Committee

The Town of Agawam will coordinate stormwater activities with the Westfield River Watershed Association (WRWA) within Year 1 and will participate in Years 2 through 5. The Conservation Commission will be responsible for Agawam's participation in the WRWA.

Year 3 Activities

The Agawam DPW has informed the Westfield River Watershed Association of the Town's initiative to find volunteers to help identify storm drains with storm drain markers. The WRWA has initiated conversations with the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts, encouraging groups to volunteers to mark storm drains.

The Town of Agawam has actively become a participant of the newly formed WRWA Five-Year Watershed Action Plan Committee. Active members of the committee are from the Conservation Commission. See Appendix 2D

In addition to the WRWS, the Town of Agawam is actively participating on the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a subcommittee of the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee (CRCC). The CRCC formed the Stormwater Subcommittee as a way of implementing a regional stormwater public outreach program.

See Appendix 2D.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The goal has been met. No changes proposed at this time.

Future Activities

Members of the WRWA Five Year Action Plan Committee and Connecticut River Stormwater Committee will participate in meetings and activities as they are scheduled.

2E Community Outreach

The Town will attempt to track the community participation level based on community outreach programs provided by the Town. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 2-5.

Year 3 Activities

The DPW distributed flyers to 244 participating residents attending the local Household Hazardous Waste Event. See Appendix 1G.

The DPW distributed 12 rain barrels to area residents. Unfortunately, the request for rain barrels was not as popular as we had hoped. We have determined that more education regarding the use of rain barrels is needed in our area. A future distribution may take place in conjunction with a bordering community.

The DPW created an Attitude Survey regarding Stormwater related information. 746 residents responded to the survey. See Appendix 2B for results.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No proposed Changes..

Possible Future Activities

The town will continue to track the community participation level.

Minimum Control Best Management Practices

Section 3 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

3A Mapping Stormwater Outfalls

A Stormwater Outfall Map will be developed showing all municipal stormwater outfall pipes greater than 12-inches diameter. Existing information and reports from previous investigations will be compiled in Year 1. Approximately 25% of the outfalls will be field inspected each year for Years 2 through 5. Inspectors will catalogue the size, pipe material and condition of each, the receiving water-body, and visual observation of the discharge and immediate downstream channel. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be responsible for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

Some existing mapping is available. This existing mapping is often utilized for stormwater related investigations.

apping Stormwater Outfalls – The Town of Agawam with its consultant Tighe & Bond have applied for and been granted a State Revolving Funding (SRF) loan for the mapping of the drainage system town-wide.

Project Status :

Compilation of existing data - complete

Compilation of existing GIS data layers - complete

Update of existing GIS data layers - complete

Field locating of stormwater features – ~90% of known features

Compilation of stormwater mapping – substantially complete

Records Management of record plans – substantially complete

Hardware and Software Purchase – future task

Training – future task

Map Deliverable from consultant - pending

A status map of the progress on the mapping project may be found in Appendix 3A.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The GIS mapping project is in progress. The details described in this requirement will be gathered during the mapping. Once mapping is complete. The establishment of outfall inspections will be evaluated.

Possible Future Activities

No Comment.

3B Non-Stormwater Discharge Ordinance

The Town intends to adopt an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the MS4 system. The Town will evaluate existing regulations in Year 1, prepare a draft ordinance in Year 2, and propose the new ordinance for adoption in Year 3. Pending adoption, the ordinance will be enforced in Years 3 through 5. The DPW will have responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The current Water and Sewer Ordinance has been revised to reflect the Federally mandated requirements, prohibiting non-stormwater discharges into the MS4 system. The revised edition is currently in the hands of the City Council for review. Implementation of the revised ordinance is pending approval by the City Council.

Appendix 3B

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Pending adoption by the City Council, this ordinance will be enforced during permit year 4.

Possible Future Activities

The revised ordinance prohibiting non-stormwater discharges is pending approval by the City Council.

3C Develop Illicit Discharge Plan

The Town will develop an Illicit Discharge Plan to include procedures for identifying, locating, removing illicit discharges as well as documenting actions and evaluating impacts. The Town will evaluate existing procedures in Year 2. The Town will prepare a draft plan and propose the plan for adoption in Year 3. Pending adoption, the plan will be implemented in Years 3 through 5. The DPW will be responsible for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

As part of the development of a draft Non-Stormwater Discharge Ordinance, existing illicit discharge practices were evaluated. Existing activities involve the investigation, and removal of illicit discharges or dumping if the DPW were made aware of an issue based upon resident complaints or observation by DPW personnel. Removal of illicit discharges has been based upon existing authority by the DPW to do so. Also, drainage system GIS mapping is being developed. Once the GIS mapping is complete, the detailed evaluation of which areas to focus on for investigations will proceed.

See Appendix 3C

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The major focus of illicit discharge plan for year 3 was the development of new ordinances to address illicit discharges for site development. Once the proposed ordinance is adopted most staff time will be taken by plan review, storm drain permit administration and construction inspection. Illicit discharge investigations and removal will be based upon individual incidents. The illicit discharge plan will prioritize activities appropriately for the Town's needs.

Future Activities

During year 4, based on the progress towards adoption of an illicit discharge ordinance and the completion of GIS mapping of the drainage system, illicit discharge detection can be implemented based upon available time of DPW staff.

3D Inform Employees, Businesses, and Public

Municipal employees, businesses and the public will be informed regarding the illicit discharge plan and the non-stormwater ordinance. Elements of the public education program will include publicity for this BMP. The DPW will be responsible for this BMP, which will be implemented in Years 3 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

An educational pamphlet has been developed and available at public office on Illicit discharges. New ordinances prohibiting illicit discharges have been offered to the City Council for adoption. Ordinance adoption is a public process. Town personnel were interviewed by a newspaper for an article on the proposed ordinance changes. At the time of the writing of this annual report, it is anticipated that a future article will run during the ordinance process.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Public education in the future may target certain business types to educate the public on what illicit discharges are and proper disposal practices of hazardous materials.

Possible Future Activities

No comment.

3E Video Inspection

The DPW will contract for the use of a video camera to inspect storm drain pipes as practicable to follow up on illicit discharges discovered during activities under BMP #3B. The DPW will be responsible for this BMP, which will continue for permit Years 3 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

The illicit discharge detection program is not yet at the stage where video inspections are required.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No Comment

Possible Future Activities

No Comment

4C Inspection / Reporting

Under the Construction Runoff Ordinance (or other regulatory mechanism), projects with disturbance over one acre will be required to have regular inspection of sediment and erosion controls and reporting of construction activities. Until a new ordinance is adopted (anticipated in Year 3), the Town will continue to require inspection and reporting in accordance with existing regulations. Pending adoption, construction inspection and reporting will be enforced in Years 3 through 5. The DPW, Planning Department, and Building Inspector have responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

Ordinance changes have been offered to City Council for adoption which is pending.

DPW and Conservation Commission work together to inspect and enforce the Wetland Protection Act on projects within the appropriate jurisdiction.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

No change is proposed.

Future Activities

Inspections will occur as needed for relevant existing regulations.

MINIMUM CONTROL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

SECTION 5 Post CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

5A Post Construction Runoff Ordinance

The Town intends to adopt an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to address post construction runoff from projects with over one acre in total disturbance. The Town will evaluate existing regulations (including Zoning, Subdivision, and Wetlands regulations) in Year 1, prepare a draft ordinance in Year 2, and propose the new ordinance for adoption in Year 3. Pending adoption, the ordinance will be enforced in Years 3 through 5. The DPW, Planning Department, and Building Inspector have responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The current Water and Sewer Ordinance has been revised to reflect regulatory mechanisms to address post construction runoff from projects with over one acre in total disturbance. The revised edition is currently going to the City Council for review on April 18, 2006. Implementation of the revised ordinance is pending approval by the City Council.

See Appendix 3B

The Conservation Commission through the Wetland Protection Act continues to regulate activities within and near wetland resource areas.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Pending adoption by the City Council, this ordinance will be enforced during permit year 4.

Possible Future Activities

The revised ordinance prohibiting non-stormwater discharges is pending approval by the City Council.

5B Site Plan Review

Under the Post Construction Runoff Ordinance (or other regulatory mechanism), applicants with projects with disturbance over one acre will be required to submit stormwater control plans for Town review and approval. Until a new ordinance is adopted (anticipated in Year 3), the Town will continue to review new development and redevelopment plans in accordance with existing regulations. Pending adoption, plans will be reviewed per the new ordinance in Years 3 through 5. The DPW, Planning Department, and Building Inspector have responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

Existing practices by the DPW already requires some post-construction BMPs as part of the site plan and subdivision review process.

New stormwater regulations have been offered to the City Council for adoption.

See Appendix 3B

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Adoption of the new stormwater regulations (ordinance) is pending.

Possible Future Activities

Pending ordinance adoption the Town will proceed with permit activities.

5C Stormwater System Maintenance Plan

Under the Post Construction Runoff Ordinance (or other regulatory mechanism), projects with disturbance over one acre will be required to include a program outlining enhanced procedures for long term operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities. Until a new ordinance is adopted (anticipated in Year 3), the Town will continue to require stormwater facility operation and maintenance in accordance with existing regulations. Pending adoption, additional operation and maintenance requirements for stormwater facilities to be constructed as part of new development and redevelopment projects will be enforced in Years 3 through 5. The DPW, Planning Department, and Building Inspector have responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

New ordinance requirements including drainage system maintenance of private sites has been offered to the City Council for adoption.

See Appendix 3B

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Pending adoption any new or redevelopment will require the development of maintenance activities schedules as part of a site's Stormwater Permit with the DPW. This is part of permitting with the DPW.

Possible Future Activities

The Town will proceed with activities as scheduled in the permit implementation.

MINIMUM CONTROL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

SECTION 6 Good Housekeeping / Pollution Prevention

6A Municipal Maintenance Activity Program

The Town will develop a program to outline procedures associated with maintenance of open spaces and parks, vehicular fleets, Town-related construction activities, roads, and storm sewer system. The Town will evaluate existing municipal procedures, modify any procedures if needed, and prepare the program plan in Year 1. The Town will continue to monitor compliance and revise policies as necessary in Years 2 through 5. The DPW will have the responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The DPW has evaluated the BMPs shown on EPA's website regarding Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and determined that several are significant to the Town of Agawam for further implementation in the future. Further evaluation and implementation will be done by the appropriate DPW personnel. Those of interest include:

- Automobile Maintenance
- Vehicle Washing
- Hazardous Materials Storage
- Spill Response and Prevention
- Materials Management

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The DPW is working toward moving to a new facility. The move is anticipated in year 4. Efforts will continue to develop new operations procedures at the new facility.

Possible Future Activities

The Town of Agawam will review current procedures for the Good Housekeeping BMPs as listed above. In reviewing the current procedures, modifications will be made as necessary to insure compliance. In addition, an employee handbook will begin to be created for future distribution and reference.

6B Training of Municipal Employees

Municipal employees performing activities under the new Municipal Maintenance Activity Program (BMP #6A) will be informed of new good housekeeping policies and procedures. This will occur pending adoption of the Program in Year 1. DPW employees will also be informed of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requirements for the DPW and Transfer Station, as applicable. Initial training will be given in Year 2. An Annual Refresher in the form of a seminar or memorandum will be given each year for Years 3 through 5. The DPW has responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

Coordination with DPW supervisors has occurred anticipating new operations at the new DPW facility once the move has occurred.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Based on the evaluation of BMPs shown on the EPA's website regarding Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations, the following were listed in BMP 6A as priority areas:

- Automobile Maintenance
- Vehicle Washing
- Hazardous Materials Storage
- Spill Response and Prevention
- Materials Management

Once further evaluation on current practices and needs are assessed in BMP 6A, training will be developed and implemented. Initial coordination with DPW supervisors has occurred. Training will occur as part of the establishment of new procedures at the new DPW facility.

Future Activities

Once the new Municipal Maintenance Activity Program (BMP 6A) is accomplished DPW employees will be informed of new good housekeeping policies and procedures.

6C Catch Basin Cleaning Program

The Town will develop a program with prioritized areas for catch basins in the urbanized area in Year 1. The Town will continue to monitor compliance and revise policies as necessary in Years 2 through 5. The DPW will have the responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The Town continues to use the previously developed catch basin cleaning priority area location list to determine where to focus their catch basin cleaning efforts. These priority areas are based on the locations in Town, which have significant hills and are thus subject to additional sanding during the winter season. See Appendix 6C for priority areas.

During Permit Year 3, 173 Storm Drains were cleaned.

See Appendix 6C for street locations.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The Town of Agawam will continue to utilize funds, if available, for annual cleaning of catch basins within priority area. Catch Basin Cleaning could occur during the year 4 summer quarter of permit, depending FEMA snow emergency reimbursement to the town and / or the FY07 budget appropriation. In addition, the DPW will document any spontaneous catch basin cleanings as they arise.

Possible Future Activities

The DPW will continue seek dedicated funds for catch basin cleaning during FY 07.

6D Street Sweeping

The Town will sweep all streets in the urbanized area once each year. The DPW has the responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized for Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

During Year 3, the DPW completed street sweeping in the following areas:

- 264 curb miles of roadway between April and June 1st.
- Additional sweeping included
  Water break cleanup of soil
  Street Sweeping prior to paving operations on

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The Town of Agawam has successfully completed street cleaning to all streets in the urbanized area, including municipal building parking lots.

Possible Future Activities

The Town of Agawam will continue to provide street cleaning to all proposed areas as needed during the Summer, Fall and Spring quarters of the permit years.

6E Pest Control / Landscaping and Lawn Care

The Town will evaluate the use of toxic chemicals in Year 1 and continue to contract with licensed applicators only in Years 2 through 5. The DPW has the responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The DPW provides maintenance services for Parks, the Golf Course, and Schools. The application of fertilizers and pesticides are under the supervision of licensed pesticide applicator, thus the chemicals are used appropriately and the over- use of chemicals is avoided. The maintenance of the golf course includes the use of organic practices where appropriate.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

DPW will continue to utilize organic alternatives were practicable.

Possible Future Activities

The DPW intends to continue to utilize licensed contractors for grounds maintenance work.

6F Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan / MSGP

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be implemented for the DPW facility under the EPA Phase II Stormwater Program Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). The DPW has the responsibility of this BMP, which will be utilized for Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

As of this report date, EPA has delayed the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) program for DPW faciliites. A Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) Plan has been in-place for the DPW maintenance facility since November 29, 2001. The SPCC Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. EPA Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations (40 CFR Part 112.7). The Town's SPCC Plan describes oil storage at the facility and specifies appropriate procedures, methods and equipment used to control and document oil spills and to prevent spills from reaching surface waters. In addition, the Plan includes recommendations to upgrade the facility in areas where existing oil spill prevention, control and countermeasures are inadequate. The Town's future MSGP compliance program, specifically a storm water pollution prevention plan, is anticipated to incorporate components of the SPCC Plan. See Appendix 6F for an outline of the SPCC Plan.

The new DPW facility is currently under construction. It is anticipated that DPW administration and operations will move to the new facility during 2006. As part of the moving process, existing operations will be altered based on the new facilities infrastructure and layout. Ongoing efforts between DPW administration and operations supervisors and personnel will occur to update operations procedures.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The establlishment of new DPW operations procedures will occur at the new DPW facility. Move to the new facility is anticipated during permit year 4.

Future Activities

No comment.

6G Used Oil Recycling

The Town currently collects used oil for proper disposal and recycling. The Town will continue to offer Used Oil Recycling year-round in Years 1 through 5. The DPW has the responsibility for this BMP.

Year 3 Activities

The Town of Agawam has continued to provide the residents of Agawam a local drop off location for waste oil. Residents were notified of the available drop off location on the Town of Agawam Regulations Sheet for Solid Waste Collections – See Appendix 6G. These flyers were distributed to all residents in their water bills during the winter 05 quarter of year 3.

2900 gallons of used motor oil were collected at the DPW Town Garage.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The Town of Agawam has met its obligation to provide the residents with a drop-off location for used motor oil. The town feels it has provided ample notification to residents through flyers and telephone communication regarding the drop off location option. The town will continue to provide this disposal option to the residents.

Possible Future Activities

The Town of Agawam will continue to provide the residents a drop-off location for used motor oil and car batteries at no charge to the residents. The DPW will continue notifying residents using the cable access informational bulletin and or press releases.

6H Hazardous Waste Collection

The Town will continue its annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day subject to funding. Every fall, the Town publicizes the collection day through newspaper ads and radio and television ads. The DPW will continue to have the responsibility for this BMP, which will be utilized in Years 1 through 5.

Year 3 Activities

The Town of Agawam successfully hosted another annual Household Hazardous Waste collection day in the Summer of 05, diverting the following materials from the waste stream and illegal dumping:

- 330 gallons of Liquids for Fuels Blending
- 1616 pound of Paints, Resins and Adhesives
- 330 gallons of Aerosols
- 220 gallons of Lab Pack Chemicals
- 10,400 lbs Lab Pack Pesticides
- 55 gallons Antifreeze
- 68 Fluorescent Bulbs
- 5 gallons of Mercury
- 100 lbs of Asbestos
- 80 lbs of Household Batteries
- 250 lbs of Lead Acid Batteries
- 11 Large and 19 Small Propane tanks

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

Due to available funding, the Town of Agawam has successfully met its goal to provide proper and safe disposal options to the residents for Household Hazardous Waste.

Possible Future Activities

The town will continue to provide proper disposal options to the residents, based on available funding.

MINIMUM CONTROL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

7A TMDL for the Connecticut River

According to the Massachusetts Year 2002 Integrated List of Waters, Connecticut River is designated as Category 5 "Waters requiring a TMDL". The targeted pollutants are priority organics, pathogens, and suspended solids. Sources of priority organics may include but are not limited to: road surfaces, inadequate fueling areas or practices, illegal dumping. Sources of pathogens may include but are not limited to: pet waste, winter road maintenance materials, illicit sewer discharges, and failing septic systems. Sources of the suspended solids may include but are not limited to: lawn care products, litter, winter road maintenance materials, erosion from construction activities, and illicit sewer discharges. The Stormwater Management Program includes many BMPs to address reduction of contaminants from these sources under all Six Minimum Control categories. The City will implement these BMPs under the responsible department and timeframes as previously described.

Year 3 Activities

All previously described Best Management Practices address the TMDL of the Connecticut River.

Best Management Practice Assessment / Proposed Change

The Connecticut River has many contributing factors to cause the need for the TMDL designation. Agawam along with other community's efforts within Massachusetts will contribute to improvements in this major river's water quality. Agawam participates in the Connecticut River Clean-up Committee's Stormwater subcommittee and the Westfield River Watershed Steering Committee.

Possible Future Activities

The future activities within the Town of Agawam's Stormwater Management Plan will be implemented as funding and other resources will allow.

Appendix

Appendix 1A

Year 3

Educational Displays

Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains.
2. Fertilize sparingly and caringly.
3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil.
4. Clean up after your pet.
5. Practice good car care.
6. Choose earth friendly landscaping.
7. Save water.

Our Water. Our Future. Ours to Protect.

Find out more at www.semcog.org

Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains
Storm Drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 30,000 people living in Agawam, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains.
Remember, only rain in the drain!

2. Fertilize sparingly and caringly
Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With over 10,000 homes in Agawam, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices.

What can you do? Simple. **Use fertilizer low in phosphorus**, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and **sweep excess fertilizer** back onto your lawn.

3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil
Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, **take them to the local hazardous waste collection day.**

4. Clean up after your pet
Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that are harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, **dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.**

5. Practice good car care
Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? **Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly.** Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. **Consider taking your car to the car was or washing your car on the grass.** Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.

6. Choose earth friendly landscaping
When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. **Use pesticides sparingly.** Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (1-2 times a week is usually sufficient) and choose plants native to our area. Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.

7. Save water
Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we overwater our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember saving water also saves you money.

Appendix 1B

Year 3

Classroom Education

THE THIRSTY LIZARD PROGRAM

The Thirsty Lizard Program is a two-week water conservation exercise that provides teachers and students with instruction in graphing and data collection. It is designed for use by 6th through 8th grade students and the classroom set includes everything the teacher will need to teach the exercise to 30 students – student readers, a teacher's guide with reproducible maters, shower timers, and flow rate calculation bags. The materials are aligned with national science and math content standards.

In addition to educating about conservation, the project gives the utility the opportunity to meet several marketing/public relations goals. By sending home letters to the parents, the utility can engage and inform the adult members of the student's families about the project. Parent letters are printed on the letterhead of the donating agency, providing good community relations. Other communities hold an assembly where the students receive a certificate of completion from the local mayor or president of the water company that sponsored the program. This definitely goes a long way for public relations.

Parental responses can be used to create a mailing list, to offer conservation materials, and to follow-up on how well their students are doing with their conservation goals. Utility offered conservation kits can be mailed from Niagara Conservation directly to your customers.

Thank you for taking the time to look over the Thirsty Lizard program. We look forward to helping you help the students in your community learn to about water conservation.

THIRSTY LIZARDS
TEACHER'S GUIDE

The **Thirsty Lizard Project** was created to help your students replace poor water management habits with better ones. Special emphasis is placed on personal grooming water use because young people have control over this aspect of household water use.

Students will track and graph their water use for two weeks. During Week One, students will monitor their typical water use habits. During Week Two, they will use various water-saving techniques.

Expectations

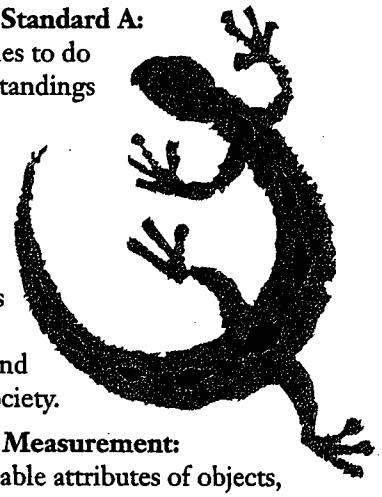
- Students will recognize the need to be good water managers.
- Students will understand that water is a limited resource with environmental, economic and cultural value.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of tables and graphs, and select appropriate graphing strategies to display data.
- Students will use math techniques, including unit factoring, to perform calculations.

Time Commitment

- Two initial 50-minute class periods, plus a partial period at the end of the first week of student assignment.
- Two-week homework assignment.
- One final 50-minute period.

Standards

National Science Content Standard A:
Students shall develop abilities to do scientific inquiry and understandings about science.



National Science Content Standard F:
Students shall develop understanding of personal health; populations, resources and environments; natural hazards; risks and benefits; and science and technology in society.

National Math Standard – Measurement:
Students understand measurable attributes of objects, units, systems and processes of measurement and apply appropriate techniques, tools and formulas to determine measurements.

National Math Standard – Data Analysis and Probability:
Students can formulate questions that can be addressed with data. They can collect, organize and display relevant data to answer them and select and use appropriate methods to analyze data.

National Math Standard – Connections:
Students can recognize and apply mathematics in contexts outside of mathematics.

Water on the World Wide Web

The following web sites are authoritative sources for water information. The facts and figures in the **Thirsty Lizard Project** are derived from these sources.

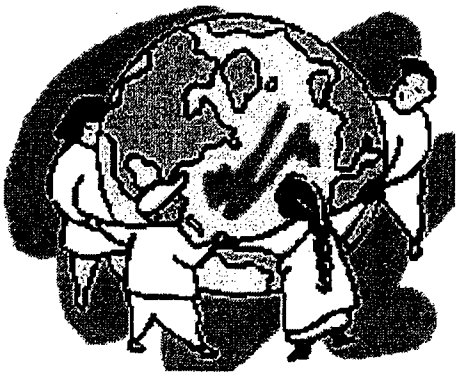
- Water for People addresses worldwide water issues, and its web site, **http://www.waterforpeople.org,** includes photos and personal narratives.
- Take an interactive, room-by-room tour of a house to learn more ways to save water. You will find many actions your family can take to prevent waste and save money at **http://www.h2ouse.net.**
- Explore the Environmental Protection Agency's Student Water Resources at **http://www.epa.gov/students/water.htm** to learn about everything from watersheds to pollution to acid rain.
- Download materials from **www.tappersfunzone.com** that ask students to solve water problems in Bolivia. From Louisville (Kentucky) Water Department, with Water for People.
- The U.S. Census Bureau maintains population clocks, updated constantly at **http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html.**

Connecting Kids and the Environment

Springfield Materials Recycling Facility

Student Essay Contest

Students in grades 5 through 8 this is your opportunity to speak out about environmental issues facing our world today and share some ideas on the kind of future you want to see!



Send in your essay by March 24, 2006 for a chance to win one of many VERY COOL PRIZES! The winners will be chosen and asked to read their essay at our annual earth day event at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility on April 28, 2006.

Essay Question:

If you could be on TV for three minutes and say something about the importance of recycling to all the leaders and citizens of the world, what would you say?

Contest Sponsors

Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board

Waste Management Recycling America, Inc.

1) About the Contest

The purpose of the essay contest is to ask students to focus on the importance of recycling and think about what message they want to send to the government and citizens about the kind of future they would like to see.

There will be two grade groupings for the contest: grades 4-5, and grades 6-8.
There will be one winner within each group.

Prizes for Students and Teachers: All winning students and runners-up in each grade category will receive a prize. Each class of the winning students will win a tour of the MRF and a luncheon. One winning student's class will be asked to attend the earth day event on April 28, 2006. Due to space constraints the other winning student's class will be provided a tour and a luncheon at a later mutually agreeable date. There will also be prizes for the teachers of the winning students.

We hope that teachers will use this contest as an opportunity to talk to students about the key environmental issues facing us today, and urge students to think carefully about what message they would like to submit through their individual essays.

Media Coverage: Where feasible, some essays will be posted on the Springfield MRF website. Winning essays will be sent to local and regional newspapers in the winner's community, and one winning student and their class will be invited to a luncheon and recycling magic show on **April 28, 2006** at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and be asked to read excerpts from their essay.

2) Contest Dates

- The **contest deadline is** March 24, 2006
  (All essays must be received by this date to be considered).
- Winners will be informed by April 5, 2006.

3) Guidelines For Writing the Essay

Students are encouraged to be creative with their writing. They can submit their solutions as an essay, a letter, or whatever format they think is the most compelling. Given the varying ages, we recommend the following lengths:

- **250 words or fewer for grade 4-5**
- **500 words or fewer for grades 6-8**

Students should stay within this word limit. The judging will also consider spelling, grammar and punctuation as well as content. Students/classes are encouraged to submit their work online to ArleneM773@aol.com.

4) Criteria For Judging Essays

At least two judges from the Springfield MRF Advisory Board and one from an outside organization will read each essay and select winners based on the following criteria:

- Did the student answer the required essay question?
- Does the essay reflect new thoughts and personal ideas?
- Is the essay presented in a compelling and convincing way?
- Does the writer creatively convey his/her message?
- Does the essay include information based on research, as well as personal experience and opinions?
- Did the student check his/her work for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.?
- Did the student stay within the word limit required?
- Can the student attend the April 28, 2006 event in Springfield to read their essay?

5) Contest Rules and Submission Information

1. All students (public, private) from MRF participating municipalities are eligible.
2. Their teachers must submit essays and classes should be available to participate in an event on April 28, 2006. Multiple essays from one class or school can be submitted simultaneously.
3. It is preferred that essays are submitted as an attachment online to ArleneM773@aol.com. Essays may also be submitted by mail to: Springfield MRF Advisory Board, c/o MassDEP, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield MA 01103 and should contain the following:
   - **Student's name, address, email if available, grade, school name, school address, school telephone number, and the name of the teacher who encouraged and/or assisted with your participation in the contest.**

- Entrants should follow the essay length guidelines listed above.
- The decisions of the judges and the Springfield MRF Advisory Board are final.
- All entries are the property of the Springfield MRF Advisory Board.
- Deadline for essay submission is **March 24, 2006.**

6) Environmental Awards Presentation

Contest winners will be notified by April 5, 2006 and one class **will be invited to attend an earth day event on Friday, April 28, 2006**, at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. A luncheon award ceremony will announce winners and present prizes to students. Students will read excerpts from their essays from the podium of the Springfield MRF. Special guests of the winners will be invited to attend. Special speakers, government officials, legislators, and others who participate in the civic life of our state will also be invited. Photo opportunities will also be made available to the contestants and their guests.

Deadline for Submissions: March 24, 2004

Appendix 1C

Year 3

Local Cable Access

Coming Soon to a Street near You!

STORMDRAIN MARKERS!

Volunteers Wanted!

What is stormwater?

- Pure rain or snowfall plus anything it carries along with it.
- As stormwater flows, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants to *storm drains.*
- Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated.
- Stormwater flows directly from our streets to waterways, inhabited by fish and other aquatic animals and plants.

Stormwater Pollutants Include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals
- Bacteria from pet wastes, and faulty septic systems

You can prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution!

- Never dump anything down storm drains!
- Pick up after your pet
- Take your car to the car wash
- Compost your yard waste
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Become a Stormdrain Marker Volunteer!

Pollutants in stormdrains flow to streams and wetlands.

To help prevent illegal dumping in our community, VOLUNTEER to mark and identify stormdrains.

NO DUMPING
DRAINS TO STREAM

CONTACT:

Tracy DeMaio
Agawam DPW-
Town Hall
413-786-0400 ext.286

TOWN of AGAWAM
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

SATURDAY, August 13, 2005

9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON- **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**!

LOCATION: AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT, COOPER ST.

PROOF OF AGAWAM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
NO COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Each household will be limited to a quantity of waste equal to 25 gallons liquid or 25 pounds solid.

WHAT DO I BRING??

FROM THE HOUSE	FROM THE GARAGE	FROM THE WORKBENCH	FROM THE YARD
Rubber Cement	Gasoline\Kerosene	Oil Paints	Insecticides\Fungicides
Photo Chemicals	Antifreeze	Stains\Varnishes	Chemical Fertilizers
Furniture Polish	Engine De-greaser	Wood Preservative	Weed Killers
Oven Cleaner	Car Wax\Polish	Paint Stripper\Thinner	Flea Control Products
Drain\Toilet Cleaners	Driveway Sealers	Aerosol Cans	No-Pest Strips
Rug\Upholstery Cleaner	Roofing Tar	Adhesives	Pool Chemicals
Flourescent Light Bulbs			

**** Propane Tanks may be dropped off for a $12 per tank disposal fee. ****

WHAT NOT TO BRING!!

Empty Containers - **DO NOT BRING EMPTY PAINT CANS** - Empty paint cans can be thrown in your trash.
Latex Paint - Dry paint out by adding kitty litter. Leave dried out- opened cans near trash container on regular pick up day.
Commercially Generated Wastes
Radioactive Wastes\Smoke Detectors
Biological Wastes
Explosives\Ammunition
Prescription Medicine\Syringes

MOTOR OIL - CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE DPW GARAGE, 1347 MAIN ST, M -F, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

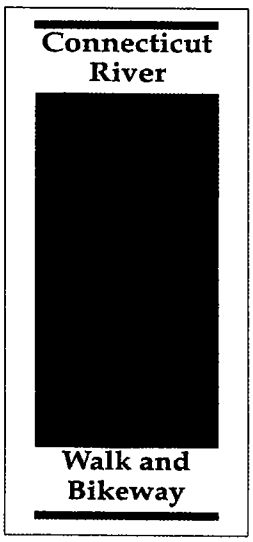
NOW SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS!!
CALL 786-0400 Ext. 286 or 231
Monday-Friday 9am - 3pm

"The Clean Solution to Dog Pollution."

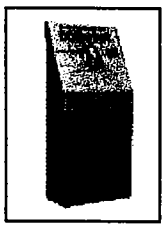
Town of Agawam

Department of Planning and Community Development

It has been brought to the attention of the Town of Agawam that the bike path is becoming littered with dog waste. Cleaning up after your pet is the law. The law states that owners shall immediately remove all feces deposited by the dog as well as disposing of it properly. There is a fine for leaving dog feces behind on public property. The Department of Planning and Community Development along with Agawam Animal Control is asking for your help to protect the beauty and integrity of our town's bike path.



The Department of Planning and Community Development has purchased dog waste bag dispensers, and will be installing them along the bike path, later this summer. These bags are being provided as a convenience to pet owners and should be brought back to your *homes* and disposed of properly. Animal waste should *never* be discarded in a waterway, such as the Connecticut River or its banks and/or the storm drains, which are meant for channeling rainwater off the roadway, to the river, not for dumping.



Dog Waste Bag dispenser

Pick up after your pets

IT'S THE LAW!!

According to the town laws Dog waste must be cleaned up and discarded properly.

- ***1st offence $25 fine***
- ***2nd offence $50 fine***
- ***3rd offence $300 fine***

Photo: uk.gov

Dog feces will contaminate the river if not properly disposed of. Feces that enter the watershed untreated is a health risk to people especially children and also to other dogs. Pet owners should be aware that the spread of many canine diseases such as parvo, distemper, rabies and worms can be transmitted from one dog to another or re-infect the dog through contact with the infected dog's waste. Pet waste also contaminates the water with bacteria that can harm humans such as E. coli, coliform bacteria and salmonella. The Town of Agawam urges you to, be a responsible pet owner, follow the law, and clean up after your dogs. Make a difference for a cleaner and healthier Bike Path.

Please be courteous to other citizens and their four legged friends.

When it rains…

Pollution goes down the Storm Drain!

Did you know…..

Every time it rains, water collects:

litter

antifreeze and motor oil

pet wastes

excess fertilizers and pesticides

leaves and grass clippings

other waste materials

These wastes are carried to the storm drain.

Storm Drains…..

Storm drains do not connect to a water treatment facility.

Untreated rainwater drains directly into our storm drains then into our local streams, ponds, lakes and rivers.

Could you imagine…..

Swimming in polluted water that contains pet wastes, motor oil, antifreeze, and pesticides?

Do your part.....

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Pick up after your pet
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Compost your yard waste
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- Take your car to the car wash

Appendix 1D

Year 3

Community Website

Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS

Quick Answers: How Do I . . . Cor

Home
Town Departments
Public Safety
Office of the Mayor
Life & Leisure
Town Staff
Government
Community Organizations
Town History
Employment Opportunities
Veteran's Services
Assessor's Record Card Information
GIS Information
School Department
Small Business Assistance Center

Got a Problem? Get It Fixed! Find out more

Agawam's town code is now online! Click here to search it.

What is stormwater?

- Pure rain or snowfall plus anything it carries along with it.
- As stormwater flows, it picks up and carries away natural and huma pollutants to storm drains.
- Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated.
- Stormwater flows directly from our streets to waterways, inhabited b other aquatic animals and plants.

Healthy Habits

Leaves and Yard Waste

Septic Systems

Stormwater Pollutants

Volunteer Projects

Community Survey

Agawam Town Hall
36 Main St
Agawam, MA 01001
Email Town Hall

Search Our Site: go!

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Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS

Quick Answers: How Do I . . . Cor

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Got a Problem? Get It Fixed! Find out more

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Healthy Habits

The most effective way to reduce stormwater pollution is to stop the p entering the system in the first place.

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roa
- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Avoid pesticides: learn about Integrated Pest Management
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected rugularly

Back to Stormwater Main Page

For more information regarding Healthy Habits visit the followi websites:

Car Washing:http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/files/carswash.pdf
Car Care: http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/files/oilspill/pdf
Pet Wastes:http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/files/petwaste.pdf

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Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS

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Get It Fixed!
Find out more

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Lawn and Garden

Yard Waste can clog storm drains, which can result in localized floodin

- Do not allow soil, leaves or grass clippings to accumulate on your dr sidewalk or on the street.
- Compost yard waste and use it to condition your soil.

Fertilizers contain large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen, which ca blooms in aquatic areas.These blooms deplete oxygen in the water anc large number of fish.

- Avoid the use of fertilizers.
- Use native vegetation to reduce maintenance.
- Test soil every 3 to 4 years to maintain proper nutrients.
- Use organic fertilizers such as manure and compost.
- If you use fertilizers, read the label carefully and do not over apply!
- Sweep, do not was any excess fertilizers or soil off driveways or wal
- Never apply before it rains or on a windy day.

Pesticides and Herbicides contain toxic materials that are harmful to hu animals, aquatic organisms and plants.

- Carefully follow the directions on the label. DO NOT OVERAPPLY.
- Minimize the use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Use natural alternatives whenever possible.

Back to Stormwater Main Page.

For more information regarding Lawn Care visit the following v

Lawn Fertilizing: http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/files/fertiliz.pdf
Landscaping: http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/files/lawn.pdf

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Septic Systems

Septic systems can provide long-term, effective treatment of househol if properly designed, constructed and maintained.
Failing septic systems can contaminate the ground water that you or y drink and can pollute nearby rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace. Keeping your in working condition will save you money!

Here are **ten simple steps** you can take to keep your septic system w properly.

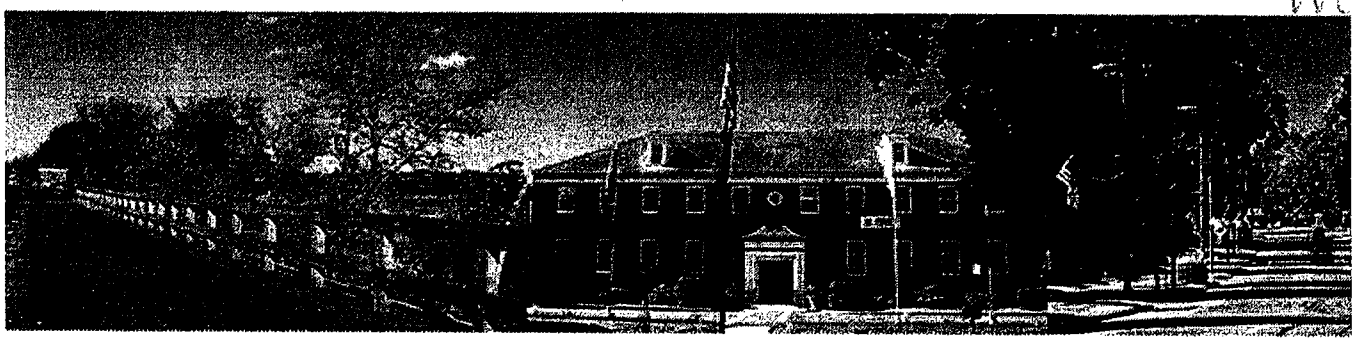
- 1. Locate your septic tank and drainfield. Keep a drawing of these lo your records.
- 2. Have your **septic system inspected** at least every three years.
- 3. **Pump your septic tank** as needed (generally every three to five
- 4. Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
- 5. Keep other household items, such as cigarette filters, coffee grou dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, and cat l your system.
- 6. Use water efficiently.
- 7. Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from ne shrubs might clog and damage the system. Also, do not apply manu fertilizers over the drainfield.
- 8. Keep vehicles and livestock off your septic system. The weight ca pipes and tank, and your system may not drain properly under com
- 9. Keep gutters and basement sump pumps from draining into or ne system.

10. Check with our local health department before using additives. Cor septic tank additives do not eliminate the need for periodic pumping ar harmful to your systemFor more information regarding maintaining yo and a septic tank works, go to:
http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf

Back to Stormwater Main Page

Agawam Town Hall
36 Main St

Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS



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Got a Problem? Get It Fixed! Find out more

Agawam's town code is now online! Click here to search it.

Stormwater Pollutants Include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands residential areas.
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy produ
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and for eroding stream banks.
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic s

Back to Stormwater Main Page

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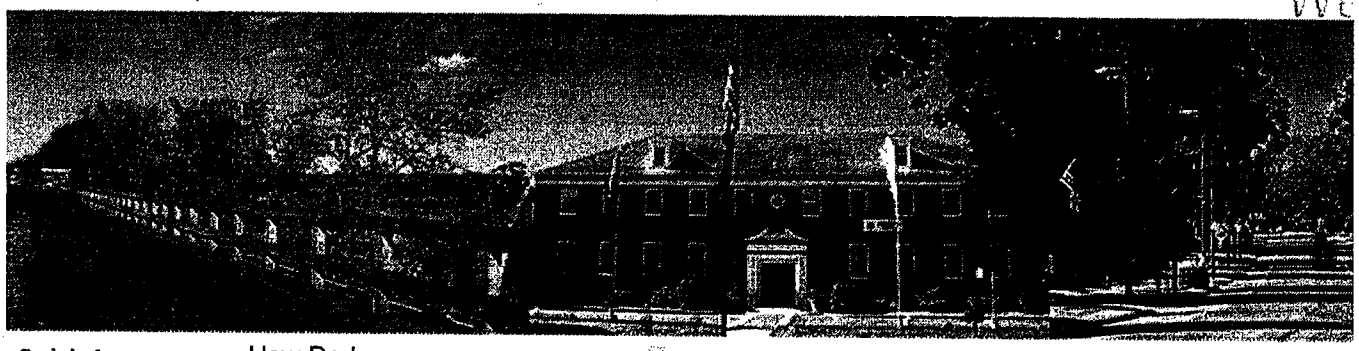
Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS



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Get It Fixed!
Find out more

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Stormdrain Volunteer Projects

To help prevent illegal dumping in our community, VOLUNTEER to ma
identify stormdrains.

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Email Town Hall

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go!

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Coming Soon to a Street near You!

STORMDRAIN MARKERS!

Volunteers Wanted!

What is stormwater?

- Pure rain or snowfall plus anything it carries along with it.
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- Bacteria from pet wastes, and faulty septic systems

You can prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution!

- Never dump anything down storm drains!
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- Take your car to the car wash
- Compost your yard waste
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Become a Stormdrain Marker Volunteer!

Pollutants in stormdrains flow to streams and wetlands.

To help prevent illegal dumping in our community, VOLUNTEER to mark and identify stormdrains.

NO DUMPING
DRAINS TO STREAM

CONTACT:

Tracy DeMaio
Agawam DPW-
Town Hall
413-786-0400 ext.286

Town of Agawam, MASSACHUSETTS

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Got a Problem? Get It Fixed! Find out more

Agawam's town code is now online! Click here to search it.

Stormwater Community Survey

The attached survey is intended to help the Department of Public Work activities to better educate the community regarding stormwater relate Please take the time to answer the survey questions to the best of you Your answers will play an important role in measuring our communities as well as the planning of future activities.

Survyes may be returned with your water bill payments or mai

Town of Agawam - DPW
36 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

You can download the community survey HERE

Back to Stormwater Main Page

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Stormwater Survey

This survey is intended to help the Department of Public Works plan future activities to better educate the community regarding stormwater related topics. Please take the time to answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. Your answers will play an important role in measuring our communities knowledge as well as the planning of future activities.

Surveys may be returned with water bill payments or mailed to the DPW.

1. What is Stormwater Runoff?
   A. Rain or Snowfall
   B. Rain or Snowfall plus anything carried along with it.
   C. Sprinkler System Water
2. Where does stormwater go?
   A. Sanitary Sewer Systems
   B. Directly into the Earth
   C. Rivers and Lakes
   D. B or C

3. *Stormwater goes to the treatment plant.*
   A. Yes
   B. No

4. *Stormwater Pollutants Include:*
   A. Chemical Pollution: fertilizers, detergent, oil.
   B. Litter: cigarettes, paper, plastic
   C. Natural Pollution: pet waste, leaves, yard waste
   D. All of the Above

5. *Septic Systems should be inspected:*
   A. Once a year
   B. Once every 3-5 years
   C. Once every 10 years

6. *Chlorinated swimming pool water should be drained into stormdrains.*
   A. Yes
   B. No

7. *What are detention ponds?*

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

8. *I can put the following in the catch basin:*
   A. Leaves
   B. Grass Clippings
   C. Trash and Cigarette Butts
   D. None of the above

9. *Have you ever attended a local Household Hazardous Waste Day Event in Agawam?*
   A. Yes
   B. No

10. *I dispose of Household Hazardous waste by:*

    _____

11. *Where do you dispose of used motor oil?*
    A. DPW Town Garage
    B. Catch Basin
    C. Behind my house
    D. Other: _____

12. *Comments:*

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

Appendix 1E

Year 3

Newspaper Press Releases

Mandatory recycling enforced in Agawam

The new Massachusetts Solid Waste master plan, which is a revision to the plan issued in 2000, calls for an increase in the recycling rate to 56 percent while continuing to meet the 70 percent waste reduction goal by 2010. This is in addition to greater composting of food, paper wastes and yard waste. In an effort to achieve these goals and decrease high disposal costs, the Town of Agawam is gearing up to enforce the state and town mandatory waste bans.

Waste bans are restrictions on the disposal and transfer for disposal of certain hazardous and recyclable items at solid waste facilities in Massachusetts. The waste bans are a state regulation that began in 1990 and are located in the state's solid waste facility management regulations, 310 CMR 19.017. It is illegal to throw out the banned commodities listed below.

Cathode Ray Tubes: Any intact, broken or processed glass tube used to provide the visual display in televisions, computer monitors and certain scientific instruments.

Whole Tires: Motor vehicle tires of all types are banned from landfills. Incinerators and transfer stations can accept whole tires. Shredded tires are not restricted.

Recyclable Paper: All paper, cardboard, and paperboard products. EXCEPT tissue paper, toweling, paper plates and cups, wax-coated cardboard and other low-grade paper products.

White Goods: Appliances employing electricity, oil, natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. These include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, and hot water heaters.

Glass Containers: Glass bottles and jars. EXCEPT light bulbs, Pyrex cookware, plate glass, drinking glasses, windows, windshields and ceramics.

Metal Containers: Aluminum, steel or bi-metal beverage and food containers.

Single Resin Narrow-Necked Plastics: Includes most plastic soda and juice bottles.

Leaves & Yard Waste: Leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden materials, shrub trimmings, and brush one-inch or less in diameter. Excluding diseased plants.

The Agawam Department of Public Works is now performing waste audits throughout the community. Under Town Code 109-1, there is a mandatory separation of recyclable materials from residential garbage. Residents who do not participate and comply with the mandatory recycling provisions will be first notified of the violation by registered mail. If no attempt is made to begin the mandatory recycling, subsequent violations shall be a $25 fine for the first offense and $50 for succeeding violations. These fines will be enforced to meet local and state mandates, reduce disposal costs and save tax dollars.

Should any resident not be familiar with the town regulations or are in need of a recycling bin, both are available at the Agawam DPW office in the City Hall at 36 Main Street.

Recycling push

Following a new solid waste plan implemented statewide, the city is gearing up to put an increased emphasis on recycling.

The plan, which goes into effect Monday, makes it illegal to throw out cathode ray tubes, whole tires, recycled paper, glass containers, metal containers, many plastic bottles and leaves and yard waste.

The illegal items must be separated from residential materials for recycling in bins provided by the city. The Department of Public Works will perform waste audits throughout the community, with residents found in violation notified by mail, then subject to fines on subsequent violations.

For information or to obtain a recycling bin, call the DPW at (413) 786-0400.

Officials look to increase recycling awareness in the city

By Michelle Symington
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The city of Agawam is taking steps to increase awareness about recycling and plans to enforce the state and city mandatory waste bans, which may result in fines for residents who do not follow the restrictions.

Tracy DeMaio, solid waste coordinator for the Agawam Department of Public Works (DPW) explained that the city currently has the bans in effect, but "we haven't focused on them to make sure they are happening."

"We know people recycle and people are making the best effort to reduce solid waste," she said.

However, she said there is a large percentage of people who do not recycle at all.

"We want to make sure they understand the state and [city] regulation," she said.

The revised Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan, which was issued in 2000, states recycling should be increased to 56 percent while continuing to meet the waste reduction goal by 2010.

DeMaio said that in Agawam, the plan is to make residents more aware of the recycling program and waste bans.

"We prefer not to fine residents," she said. "We prefer to educate first. Those who refuse to do it are not just breaking a local ordinance, they are breaking a state mandate."

DeMaio said that the initiative is not just about recycling. It includes educating the public about specific items that are illegal to place in a trash can.

She said the fines can be issued to residents who don't recycle as well as those who place illegal items in their trash cans.

Banned items include:

• Cathode Ray Tubes – Any intact, broken or processed glass tube used to provide the visual display in televisions, computer monitors and certain scientific instruments

• Whole Tires – Motor vehicle tires of all types are banned from land fills. Incinerators and transfer stations can accept whole tires. Shredded tires are not restricted

• Recyclable Paper – All paper, cardboard, and paperboard products. EXCEPT tissue paper, toweling, paper plates and cups, wax-coated cardboard and other low-grade paper products

• White Goods – Appliances employing electricity, oil, natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. These include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, and hot water heaters

• Glass Containers – Glass bottles and jars. EXCEPT light bulbs, Pyrex cookware, plate glass, drinking glasses, windows, windshields and ceramics

• Metal Containers – Aluminum, steel or bi-metal beverage and food containers

• Single Resin Narrow-Necked Plastics – Includes most plastic soda and juice bottles

• Leaves & Yard Waste – Leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden materials, shrub trimmings, and brush one-inch or less in diameter, excluding diseased plants

DeMaio said that the above items are banned from regular trash pickup to ensure that they do not make it through the incinerator and cause damage to the environment.

She said that she is not sure if a large quantity of such items are being thrown away, but she did say the waste energy facility can refuse the city from dumping there if too many illegal items are brought in.

She said that she does not believe there is a problem in Agawam because "residents are very educated and environmentally aware of where the items should go and shouldn't go."

"We want to make sure we are able to teach as many residents as possible about the regulations," she added.

DeMaio said that she, along with other city employees, will drive the city's trash routes and note all of the homes that do not put out recycling bins Audits will begin on Oct. 24.

She added that they will drive the trash routes a few times because residents do not always have enough recyclables to put out some weeks and others may be on vacation.

Residents who do not follow the state and city mandates will be notified by mail about the violations. If the resident continues to refuse to follow the mandates, they can be fines $25 for the first offense and $50 for each additional offense.

"We want this to be a positive project," DeMaio said. "We don't want this to become something residents won't support."

She added that Agawam is a "great community" and she is proud of the residents.

Agawam

New yard waste procedures create savings for city

By Michelle Symington
MetroWest Reminder Assistant Editor

AGAWAM – The new yard waste procedure implemented by the city last year has been successful in reducing the amount of yard waste tonnage dropped off by Agawam residents and in creating a cost savings for the city of $9,265.63.

Last March, the city began to require residents who utilize Bondi's Island Landfill to discard their yard waste to obtain a yard waste pass at the Department of Public Works (DPW). An original driver's license was required to obtain a pass.

Tracy DeMaio, Solid Waste and Stormwater project coordinator for the city, explained that city officials "had a gut feeling" that people from other communities were bringing their yard waste to Bondi's Island and saying they were from Agawam.

She said she and other officials heard about the problem through conversations in the community.

There was no procedure in place to track the use of the facility by Agawam residents.

"We went with our gut feeling and now we have documentation that they were our residents [who used the facility]," she said.

Last year, the number of vehicles that entered the facility from July-December decreased from 8,991 in FY05 to 5,321 in FY06. The leaf tonnage decreased from 637.58 tons in FY05 to 307.37 in FY06.

DeMaio said that the city was being charged per vehicle and the city was charged for any vehicle containing a driver who said they were from Agawam.

With the help of the employees at Bondi's Island, DeMaio said the city was also finding that some Agawam residents were using yard waste passes that they did not obtain from the DPW. She also said that many of the people who were violating the use of the facility were landscaping companies.

DeMaio said that, once the residents who were taking advantage of the facility were questioned, they never returned or they were turned away because they did not have the correct pass.

Although the new policy was successful, some residents and landscapers began to use passes they received from a friend.

In order to try to reduce the problem of sharing passes, the city is now requiring that residents bring an original driver's license as well as their vehicle registration to obtain yard waste passes. DeMaio said the resident will receive three truck passes, six car passes and can return to obtain more later if necessary.

Passes that were obtained in 2005 but not used will not be accepted for use this year. In addition, no commercial or business vehicles will be allowed to obtain passes.

"The intention is not to limit the number of drop-offs," DeMaio said, adding that the intention is to find the people they have found, such as landscapers or those who have obtained a pass from a friend.

"Now, the ticket will match the registration on their vehicle," she DeMaio said. "Unfortunately residents are upset about that, but they can thank their neighbors who abused the system."

She said that residents feel it is an inconvenience to have to visit the DPW office to obtain a pass because it is open from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"I appreciate their patience and I hope they see the benefit," she added. She said many residents are supportive of the program.

Once she explains that the city is not limiting residents from using the facility, that it promotes the drop-offs and that the passes are designed to reduce the cost of the program so it will not be eliminated, DeMaio said residents understand and support the program.

She also said the city is "thrilled" with the success of last year's results.

"Obviously, a $9,000 savings is huge, and hopefully it continues to be an advantage to the residents," she said.

The savings will be absorbed back into the city's solid waste budget. DeMaio explained that other areas within the solid waste budget, such as the price of gas for the trash haulers, have increased and the savings created from the yard waste program will help balance and adjust the budget.

"I am very satisfied with the savings and the leaf drop-off," DeMaio said. "I am grateful of the community for supporting this program and I am looking forward to another yard waste season."

Senior Center hosts spring concert

AGAWAM – Many of the songs that will be presented during a March 31 Spring Concert have retained popularity over the years.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Reserved tables are available or those who wish to get into some "serious" singing for some of the numbers.

For the audience's special entertainment, pianist Bob Coelln will present a couple songs for easy listening – Dizzy Fingers and the Frankie Carle arrangement of "Blue Champaign." Some of the Chorus members will also be featured in solos.

The program is free with donations to be given to the Senior Center Expansion Fund. Refreshments will also be provided and will include popcorn, coffee, punch and light snacks.

Tables may be reserved by calling 786-7356.

Join Our Community Forum
blications.com

Reminder wk of 3/20/06

Campaign Kick Off for
JAMES (JIM) DRISCOLL
for Massachusetts State Representative
for the 12th Hampden District

DPW reminds residents about yard waste drop-off procedures

Yard waste drop-off procedures were implemented within the Town of Agawam to ensure only Agawam residents benefit from bringing residential yard waste to Bondi's Island Landfill off Route 5 in Agawam. This process has proven to be a success for the community. The number of vehicles entering the drop off site between July and December has decreased from 8991 vehicles in FY05 down to 5231 vehicles in FY06. Leaf tonnage decreased from 637.58 tons in FY05 down to 307.37 tons in FY06.

As anticipated, the Department of Public Works is pleased with the reduction in leaf waste, producing a disposal savings of $9265.63 to the town. Success was due to the number of vehicles entering the facility decreased, as well as a number of landscapers were found utilizing the services that the residents pay for. In addition, a number of residents were inappropriately "sharing" their passes. Unfortunately, this has caused yet another change to the program.

Beginning immediately, all Agawam residents will continue to be required to obtain yard waste passes at the Department of Public Works Office. In addition to the original required drivers license, verifying residency of Agawam, residents will also need to bring in their vehicle registration identifying the vehicle to be allowed into Bondi's Island.

As a reminder, each pass will allow one entrance into the drop off yard. Passes obtained in 2005 will NOT be allowed for use in 2006. No commercial or business vehicles will be allowed. The Department of Public Works has the right to limit the number of passes allocated per household/per year. Unfortunately all these requirements are necessary to eliminate the number drop offs charged to the Town of Agawam that are not in fact Agawam residents or homeowners.

The Department of Public Works appreciates your support with these changes and looks forward to yet another financially successful yard waste season.

Agawam Advertiser Wk 3/2/06

Clean Solution to Dog Pollution

It has been brought to the attention of the Town of Agawam that the bike path is becoming littered with dog waste. Cleaning up after your pet is the law. The law states that owners shall immediately remove all feces deposited by the dog as well as disposing of it properly.

There is a fine for leaving dog feces behind on public property - first offense, $25 fine; second offense, $50; third offense, $300. The Dept. of Planning and Community Development along with Agawam Animal Control is asking for your help to protect the beauty and integrity of our town's bike path.

The Dept. of Planning and Community Development has purchased dog waste bag dispensers, and will be installing them along the bike path later this summer. These bags are being provided as a convenience to pet owners and should be brought back to your homes and disposed of properly. Animal waste should never be discarded in a waterway, such as the Connecticut River or its banks and/or the storm drains, which are meant for channeling rainwater off the roadway, to the river, not for dumping.

Dog feces will contaminate the river if not properly disposed of. Feces that enter the watershed untreated is a health risk to people, especially children, and also to other dogs. Pet owners should be aware that the spread of many canine diseases such as parvo, distemper, rabies and worms can be transmitted from one dog to another or re-infect the dog through contact with the infected dog's waste. Pet waste also contaminates the water with bacteria that can harm humans such as E. coli, coliform bacteria and salmonella.

The Town of Agawam urges you to be a responsible pet owner, follow the law, and clean up after your dogs. Make a difference for a cleaner and healthier bike path.

River walkway needs cleaning

8-16-05

A walk down the path along the Connecticut River in Agawam looks more like a series of intricate dance steps than a relaxing stroll through nature.

By BEN MEYERS
bmeyers@repub.com

AGAWAM – City officials say there is a growing problem with dog waste on the city's Connecticut River walk and bikeway.

The Department of Planning and Community Development, along with Animal Control, is trying to curb the problem of people not curbing their dogs.

"This has become our biggest single complaint since the walkway has been around," said Deborah Dachos, city director of planning and community development.

A walk down the path looks more like a series of intricate dance steps than a relaxing stroll through nature.

"People see it as a victimless crime, but when you aren't paying attention, a new pair of sneakers can turn into two victims pretty quickly," said Kevin Smythe of West Springfield, who runs the path during the summer to stay in shape for the Niagara Cross Country team in New York.

"I don't bring our (family) dog with me because I don't want to have to stop and pick up after her. Why don't other people just leave their dogs at home if they don't want to clean up after them?" he said.

Aside from the property damage the waste can cause, it can also be a health hazard. If left on the ground, the waste can contaminate the watershed and river, while transmitting diseases such as rabies, worms, E. coli, coliform bacteria and salmonella, officials said.

Not promptly cleaning up after a dog is not only unsanitary; it is illegal. The first offense is punishable by a $25 fine, the second can be a $50 fine and a third offense can be punished with a $300 fine according to a city ordinance.

"The law is being flagrantly ignored despite the best efforts of Bob Burke (the city Dog Officer who works out of the Agawam Police Department) to enforce the law. People aren't cleaning up after their pets," said Dachos.

The department has purchased three dog waste bag dispensers that will be in place once the city gets the kiosks to mount them, but the kiosks are currently on back order.

Dachos said that it isn't hard to take care of the problem though.

"All people have to do is take five minutes and clean it up and then throw it away when they get home. That is all. And the path will be much cleaner, healthier and safer," she said.

Education

"Anti-Litter Critters" at Clark School seek help

THE STUDENT COUNCIL at James Clark School and Principal Sandra Howard (back, left) formed a task force to address the litter problem around the school. The "Anti-Litter Critters" are working on ways to educate not only their fellow students but the entire town on ways to beat the litter bug. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.