



Winter 2023

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CT NEMO MS4 Program

This newsletter was created to relay occasional updates and important information to MS4 regulated communities.



MS4 Annual Reports

It's that time again... MS4 Annual Reports must be sent in to DEEP by April 1st. This year, all activities performed throughout January – July are required to be reported, however DEEP is encouraging permittees to document all ongoing compliance activities.

As a reminder, the 2020 template, made last year, is a more streamlined version of the original annual report template and contains the corresponding permit language for each task being reported. It can be found on the Annual Reports page of our website (<https://nemo.uconn.edu/ms4>). Municipalities can use this template or continue adding on to their original annual report. By February 15th, the annual

report must be posted to your municipality's website and hardcopies must be available at a town hall or public library. Reports, transmittal forms, and review fees are due to DEEP by April 1st, 2023.

While never a fun task, annual reports are an opportunity to update DEEP and your community on the progress you have made, while also explaining why you may be behind on some portions (ex. Limited staff, key staff turnover, unhelpful weather during monitoring season, reduced budgets, pandemic slowing progress, etc.). Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about completing your report.



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EPA Stormwater Monitoring Equipment Loan Program

This EPA program supplies watershed associations or NGOs within New England with a loan of stormwater monitoring equipment. This equipment can then be distributed to any municipalities regulated by a MS4 general permit for assistance in volunteer monitoring. The program is now

accepting applications, due by March 6th, 2023. Selections will be announced by March 20th; applicants who are not selected will not receive a response. For more information on this program and for the application form, please visit our webpage on [MS4 Compliance Funding](#).





MS4 Spotlight: Trumbull to Continue Pervious Pavers Project with LIS Futures Fund Grant

The Long Island Sound Futures Fund is looking to provide grants to local communities within the Long Island Sound watershed. The types of projects they are looking for are habitat restoration planning or implementation, resilience, education, water quality, and fish passage, as well as nitrogen prevention or reduction planning or implementation. These grants are a great opportunity to implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to help meet DCIA disconnection goals. Last year, both Naugatuck and Trumbull were awarded grants to implement GSI tactics such as pervious pavement, grass swales, and biofiltration units. I reached out to Trumbull for more information on their award and their plans for the project.

Rina Bakalar, Trumbull's Director of Economic & Community Development, described how this grant was building off of a phase one project funded by EPA's 319 fund for nonpoint source management in 2016. Phase one consisted of implementing 4,600 sq. ft. of permeable pavers within the Long Hill Green District located at the top of the watershed of the Pequannock River - a project Bakalar said proved critical during the time of COVID as small businesses in the area were able to open patio spaces for outdoor dining. The 2022 LIS Futures Fund grant for a total of \$311,000 will add an additional 5,400 sq. ft. of pervious pavers to the area.

In addition, I spoke with both the landscape architect, Gary Sorge, and civil engineer, Kent Gannon, from Santec Consulting Services who were behind the designs of both phases. They said that the pavers have significantly and visibly reduced the runoff, ice and snow build up, as well as flooding and ponding in the area. Sorge attributes the

success of this project to the excavation for a full depth of 16-22 inches for the pavers, along with percolation tests to ensure infiltration of a 100-year storm. Along with the GSI, Trumbull has added a lot of educational signage for the residents and visitors.

The phase one construction period was a total of 3 months. A similar timeline is expected for phase two, hoping to begin Fall 2023. Once complete, the pavers will filter 2,270 ft.³ of stormwater runoff before reaching the Pequannock River, and eventually into Long Island Sound. The town staff is responsible for maintaining the GSI – a key detail that Sorge and Gannon took into consideration when crafting the plans. The project emphasizes that the town must have the capacity to maintain the area, both with staff and proper equipment, such as brush and vacuum systems and rubber blades on the bottom of plows so as not to damage the pavers.

For those who are considering applying for funding, Bakalar said that it may help to provide a proposal which demonstrates a meaningful and measurable impact – a plan for a part of a bigger effort to improve the quality of Long Island Sound. To see other CT Futures Fund Grants awarded in 2022, click [here](#).

Requests for proposals will open in March 2023, so keep an eye out. If you have an idea already and would like feedback, fill out this form and send it to LISFF23@nfwf.org by April 14th. For more information, visit the [Futures Fund website](#), or contact lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org. Informational workshops will also be held throughout the state in the coming months. For dates and registration links, visit our [Compliance Funding webpage](#).



Images of Trumbull's phase one construction and finished pervious pavers

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MS4 Puzzler

“When is the wet weather monitoring for IDDE supposed to take place?”

Answer:

Technically, the MS4 Permit dictates that wet weather monitoring for IDDE is supposed to take place between the months of March to June. However, CT DEEP has announced that the Stormwater Staff will be proposing the IDDE sampling window be eliminated in the next version of the MS4 general permit. They still recommend that IDDE sampling be performed in the spring or other times when the groundwater is high but will not restrict the sampling to March-June. Therefore, it is acceptable for IDDE sampling to continue outside of that time period. Further information pertaining to the permit renewal will be shared as we learn more.



The Stormwater Utility Webinar Series

Our fifth installation of the Stormwater Utility Webinar Series, Regional Stormwater Utilities Efficiencies and Challenges, will be on Wednesday, February 22nd at 1pm EST.

We've invited Jeff Colella, Stormwater Division Manager of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) to discuss the program's experience as a regional stormwater utility and MS4 Administrator in Pennsylvania. In this webinar, we will hear about the WVSA story and program, the implementation of their regional stormwater utility spanning 32 municipalities, and keys to

success for those considering following a similar path.

If you are interested in attending, you can [register here](#). For more information on stormwater utilities and our webinar series, visit our website (<https://nemo.uconn.edu/stormwater-utilities/>) or scan our QR code with your iPhone:



Spring 2023 Stormwater Corps class checking out the new bioretention system next to the Science 1 building on Storrs Campus. It spans over 800 ft and will infiltrate 8,630 ft.³ of stormwater.



Comment Period for Manuals

The CT Stormwater Quality Manual and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines are key aspects of the MS4 permit when it comes to providing guidance on the measures, design options, and installment information required for compliance with the state's stormwater permits. The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation have collaborated to prepare draft updates of both manuals and are looking for feedback from the public. Feedback is due by March 1st,

2023. You can access all materials at the [CT DEEP Webpage](#) and email all comments to Kathleen.Knight@ct.gov.

There will also be an informational webinar on February 22, 2023 2:00-3:30 PM for any questions and to provide an overview of the information. No registration is required. If you are interested, you can join using this Webex link: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/83529432314>

Stay tuned for more educational materials to be released from CT NEMO surrounding these manuals this coming spring!

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