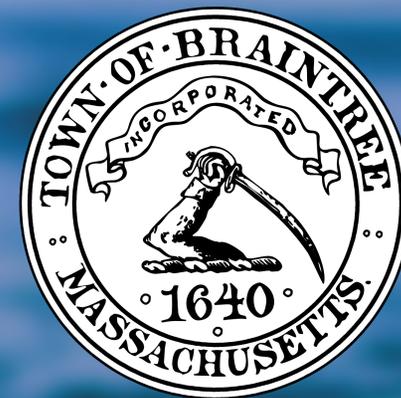


STORMWATER FAQs



What is stormwater and why is it important?

A Braintree resident's guide to stormwater pollution prevention

QUESTIONS?

Contact us:

Braintree Stormwater Division

85 Quincy Ave.

Braintree, MA 02184

(781) 794-8930

www.braintreema.gov/stormwater

Q: Why is there a stormwater utility fee?

A: Due to new federal requirements, Braintree must increase its investment in stormwater infrastructure without any federal funding. A stormwater utility allocates cost based on the amount of stormwater your property generates. For a detailed cost breakdown, visit the "Stormwater Utility" subpage of our website.

Q: Why is stormwater management important?

As Braintree becomes more developed, the amount of impervious surface will increase. A greater amount of impervious surface leads to higher volumes of stormwater runoff, which increases the severity of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, pollution, and threats to biodiversity. Stormwater management helps mitigate the negative impacts of stormwater runoff. By creating a more resilient stormwater infrastructure, the Town of Braintree will enjoy the benefits of cleaner local water bodies and better flood control during rainfall events.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Developed areas like Braintree include many parking lots, buildings, roadways, and other hardened "impervious" surfaces. When it rains or when snow melts, stormwater runs off impervious surfaces and picks up pet waste, oil, sand, fertilizers, and other pollutants. Braintree's stormwater infrastructure discharges directly into local waterways, which themselves are a critical part of Braintree's stormwater system. Investing in our stormwater infrastructure will improve the quality of Braintree's waters and make them more swimmable and fishable for generations to come.



Stormwater on Washington St. in Braintree, March 2010

HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR PART

PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS

Bacteria from pet waste is a major contributor to water pollution in Braintree. Please pick up after your pet and put the waste in the trash to prevent it from traveling to Braintree waterways.

RETHINK YOUR LAWN CARE REGIMEN

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. Try to avoid over-fertilizing, over-watering, or over-mowing your lawn. Clear leaves away from storm drains near your property to avoid flooding.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CAR

When automotive fluids drip onto roads, driveways, and parking lots, stormwater runoff will carry them into waterways. Take preventative measures to make sure your car isn't leaking fluids. If you wash your own car, do not let the runoff enter the storm drain - wash it on your lawn to allow the water to infiltrate into the ground.

To learn more ways to reduce your impact, visit the "Residents" section of www.braintreema.gov/stormwater.