

WATER QUALITY IN THE NASHUA RIVER

Did you know – **stormwater runoff**, or the rain and snowmelt that falls on the streets and is collected by storm drains, is one of the most significant sources of pollution in our waterways?

Did you know – the Nashua River is **impaired** for phosphorus and bacteria, which means that the concentrations of phosphorus and bacteria in the river are higher than state Water Quality Standards?

Did you know – many activities like salt use, dumpster placement, and infrequent parking lot sweeping contribute to stormwater pollution and can harm water quality?

Here's how Devens' businesses can help reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality:

Parking Lot Sweeping



Street and parking lot sweeping are critical in reducing stormwater

pollution! Debris from streets and parking lots include soil, sand, leaves, and trash, all of which are better off in a landfill than in the Nashua River. Parking lots should be swept with mechanical equipment at least once per year.

Snow and Ice Removal



Any road salt, sand, or deicing chemical used in your parking lot is

eventually carried to waterways by melting snow. Businesses should use these chemicals carefully and ensure they are properly stored when not in use. When possible, use natural deicing products that are not toxic to plants and animals.



Landscaping, Fertilizer, and Watering

Fertilizers with phosphorus are regulated in Massachusetts, and should only be used when planting a new lawn or if a soil test shows that the lawn needs phosphorus to grow. Chemicals used on lawns can run off into the storm drain, especially when lawns are over-watered, and contribute to pollution in the Nashua River.

Most landscaping in Massachusetts only needs to be watered once per week. Run your sprinklers early in the morning when possible, and make sure they are not watering the sidewalk or parking lot.



Waste and Material Storage

Uncovered dumpsters or material storage areas can contaminate stormwater with bacteria, nutrients like phosphorus, and sediments. All dumpsters and material storage areas should be covered, placed in a confined area, and inspected regularly for signs of leaks.

Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many businesses and commercial properties have on-site stormwater management systems, or stormwater BMPs, which capture stormwater before it reaches the drainage system or the Nashua River. Typical BMPs include rain gardens and infiltration basins, which allow the ground to slowly absorb stormwater. BMPs must be regularly maintained to work properly. Tell your property manager if you notice any problems with the on-site stormwater system, such as pools of stormwater around catch basins or overgrown infiltration basins.

Questions?

More information is available at:
www.devensec.com
www.devenscommunity.com