Water Management Act Grant Stormwater Projects

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Stormwater Workshop
October 16, 2025

WMA Grant Background

- WMA Grant began FY2013
- Funding source: state capital fund
- Approximately $2 million/year for WMA grant and M36 grant until FY 2025, when it was reduced to $1 million
- Current Requirements:
  - PWS must have a valid WMA permit or registration
  - 20% financial match for all projects, can be in-kind services
- 13 stormwater projects out of 111 since FY 2013
- Project segments usually in the $60k-$300k range

Planning vs. Implementation

Stormwater projects are usually a multi-year project.

Year 1

- **Planning project** to identify best implementation project for improving ecological conditions to mitigate and offset proposed water withdrawal increases through improvements to stormwater.
  - Evaluate several proposed locations, pick the one that best meets the criteria for a successful project. Do design plans.

Year 2

- **Implementation project** should be a shovel-ready project that has been previously identified during a systematic planning or restoration process, meets the criteria of a mitigation project, and achieves cost-effective environmental improvements.
  - Construction of stormwater project.

Applications for Stormwater Implementation Projects must include…

- Project strategy and viability;
- Project design(s): Designs must be of sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the proposal. Final designs need to be prepared by a Professional Engineer (PE);
- Specific site location(s), including site characteristics;
- Description of resulting environmental improvements; and
- Estimated cost of the project, including the sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Additional Requirements

- Must comply with the MA Stormwater Handbook. https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-stormwater-handbook-and-stormwater-standards.
- Must be constructed on public lands.
- O&M plans must be provided.
  - The municipality must agree to maintain the project for its estimated life.
- A Construction Certification and an original copy of a full-sized set of drawings reflecting the “as-built” conditions, developed, and stamped by a Professional Engineer.

Milford, Fino Field Stormwater Project (2023-2025)

Year 1

- Identified 5 priority green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) sites, all located within subbasin 21029.

Year 2

- Developed conceptual designs for three (3) priority projects and took the most easily implemented project to 80% design.

Year 3

- Implement large-scale infiltration system to mitigate stormwater runoff and support groundwater recharge.
  - Intercept the existing flow from a 52-acre drainage area (60% impervious), which reduces stormwater pollution to the Charles River and increase groundwater recharge. The system is sized to capture and infiltrate 11.4 MGY.

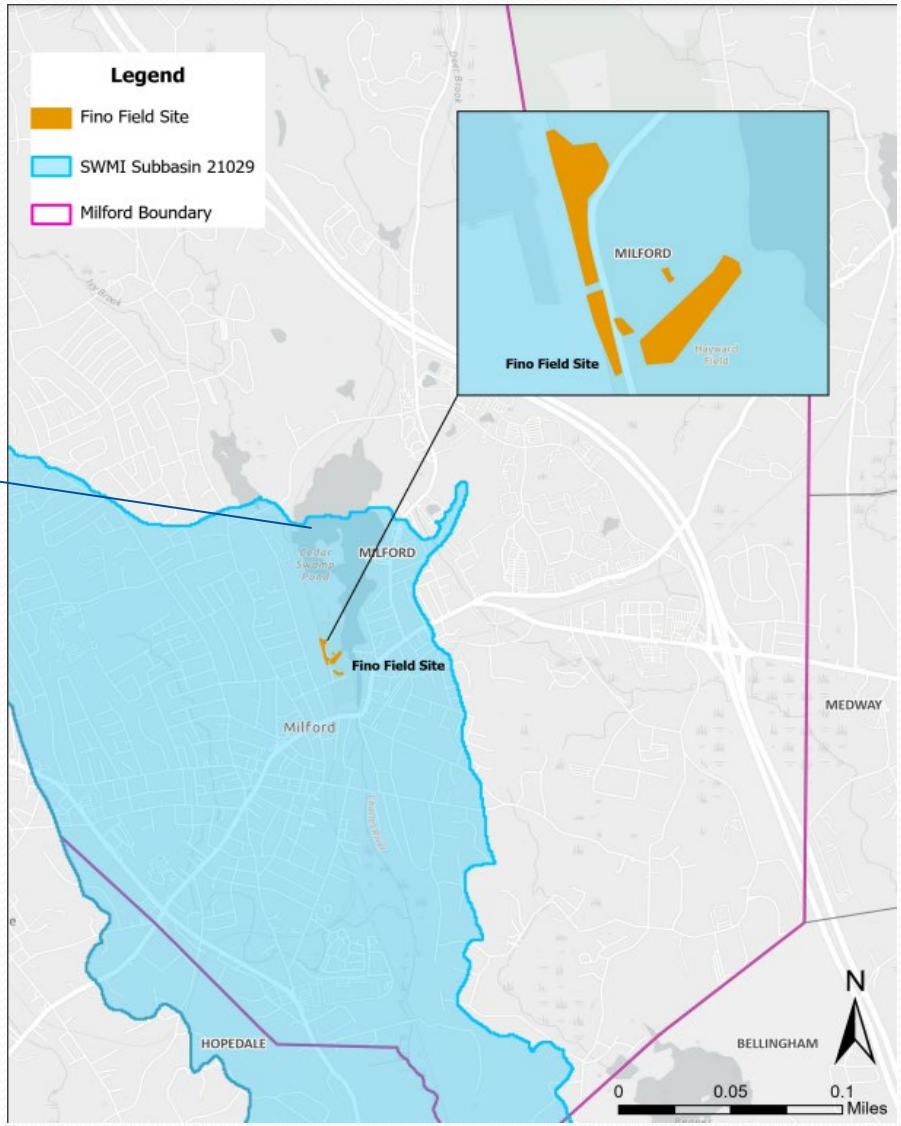
Mechanics

- The stormwater infrastructure consists of installing a large subsurface infiltration system beneath the parking lot adjacent to the playing field.

- Additionally, pretreatment fixtures include a sediment forebay and hydrodynamic separator which will mitigate pollution and decrease the amount of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) flowing into the infiltration piping.

Project Site

Milford Pond



Subbasin 21029 is significantly stressed, with August median flow depleted by as much as 78.3%.

Photos

Photo #1: SC-800 Chamber System Installation Progress .
(Looking North East)

Photo #2: Close up of Chamber System Unit, Stone, and Filter Fabric .
(Looking East)

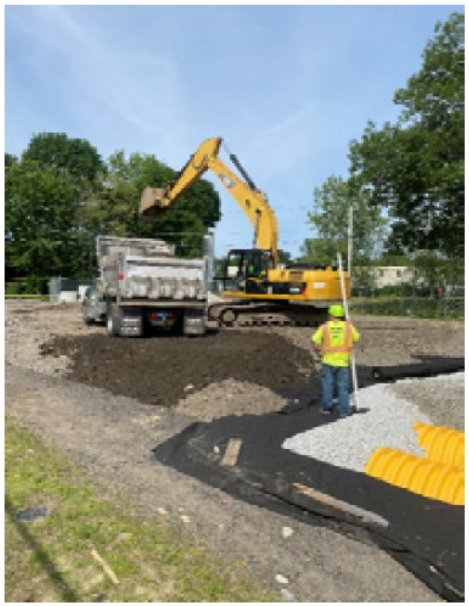


Photo #2: Dump Truck Carrying Gravel
(Looking West)

Photo #1: Entrance area to parking lot paved
(Looking North East)

How Would this Apply as Mitigation Credit?

- Mitigation – activities undertaken to offset impacts of ground or surface water withdrawals.

- Baseline is the largest of the following: 2003 – 2005 water use + 5%, 2005 water use +5 %, or the community's registered volume. Must be in compliance with volume authorized.

- The Stormwater BMP Direct Mitigation Credit applies to post-2004 redevelopment projects that infiltrate stormwater which previously flowed from impervious surfaces to surface water bodies. The credit is equal to the volume of runoff per day infiltrated via stormwater BMPs that had discharged to a surface water body.

Stormwater Calculator Example

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	STORMWATER BMP DIRECT MITIGATION CALCULATOR							
	Only green cells can be edited. Gray cells are automatically populated or calculated.							
	ENTER the name of the WMA permit holder:		**Milford Water**					
	STEP 1: **ENTER** Recharging BMP Name or Other Identifier	MILFORD	STEP 3: **ENTER** the design infiltration depth (inches of runoff per 24-hour storm) the BMP infiltrates in 72 hours.	STEP 4: **ENTER** the acres of pre-2005 directly connected impervious surface connected to an infiltration BMP since January 1, 2005.	Percent of Annual Precipitation Infiltrated	Infiltration Credit (cubic feet/year)	Infiltration Credit (million gallons per day)	
	Fino Field	48.64	0.3	31.2	0.242	1,335,057	0.027360	
		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
0		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
1		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
2		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
3		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
4		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
5		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
6		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
7		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
8		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
9		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
0		48.64			0.000	0	0.000000	
1	EXAMPLE ONLY - NOT FOR MTIGATION CALCULATION USE						0.027360	TOTAL CREDIT (in mgd)
2								

Grant Websites

- RFRs are released in early fall.
- All WMA Grant RFRs are posted on COMMBUYS, the state's online procurement site, and on MassDEP's website.
  - https://www.commbuys.com
  - Water Management Act Grant Programs for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov
- Sign up for alerts on COMMBUYS.