FINANCING STORMWATER PROJECTS THROUGH THE MASSDEP WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRAM

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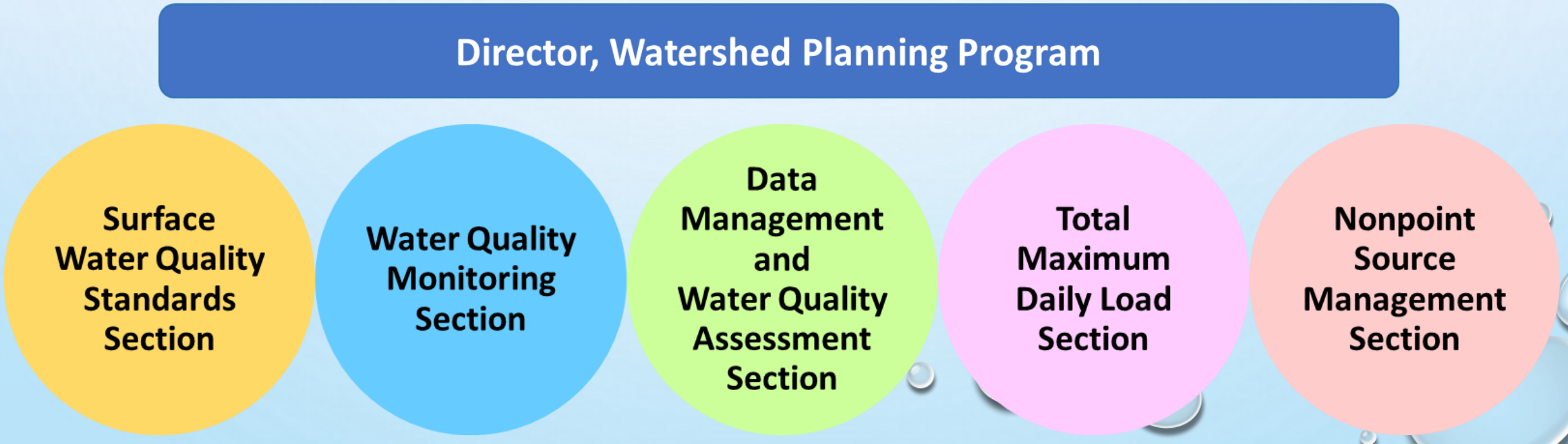
Stormwater Financing Workshop
Mass Rivers Alliance
October 9, 2025

Watershed Planning Program

The mission of the Watershed Planning Program (WPP) in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is to protect, enhance, and restore the quality and value of the waters of the Commonwealth. Guided by the federal Clean Water Act, WPP implements this mission statewide through five Sections that each have a different technical focus: (1) Surface Water Quality Standards; (2) Surface Water Quality Monitoring; (3) Data Management and Water Quality Assessment; (4) Total Maximum Daily Load; and (5) Nonpoint Source Management. Together with other MassDEP programs and state environmental agencies, WPP shares in the duty and responsibility to secure the environmental, recreational, and public health benefits of clean water for all people of the Commonwealth.



WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRAM
NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION

Dr. Padmini Das,
NPS Section Chief

Malcolm Harper,
319 Program
Coordinator

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Judy Rondeau,
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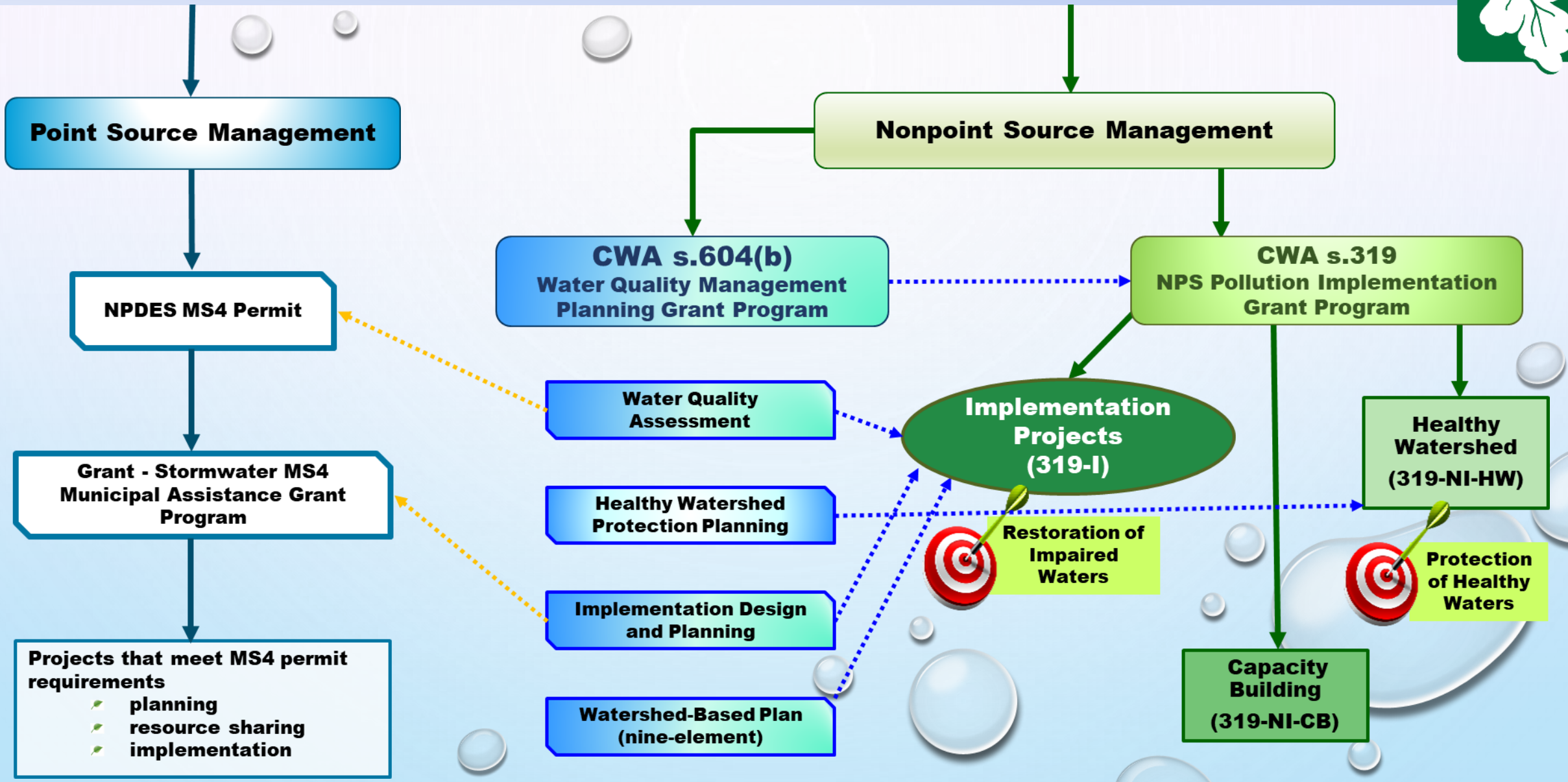
GRANTS

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS



MS4 MUNCIPAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Serving Stormwater Coalitions Since 2017

Eligible Entities

Two or more municipalities subject to an MS4 permit, and governmental or non-profit entities working on behalf of permit holders.

Eligible Projects

Result in tools or strategies that will help multiple municipalities meet one (1) or more requirement(s) of the Small MS4 General Permit in effect at the time of application

MS4 Grant

Other Available Funding for Stormwater Projects

MassDEP seeks to help facilitate the work of stormwater coalitions, encourage the formation of new coalitions, and promotes multi-municipal collaboration on improved stormwater management and permit compliance through the MS4 municipal assistance grant program.

FY26 Funding Available: $250,000

Applications due: 10/10/25 at 5 p.m.

Program Staff: Douglas Coppi

CWA SECTION 604(b)WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT

Eligible Activities

Activities that determine the nature, extent, and causes of water quality issues and to develop plans to restore or protect water quality pursuant to the CWA and Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards.

Sample Eligible Projects

- Water quality monitoring & assessment
- Watershed pollutant source assessment
- Pollutant load and load reduction modeling
- Implementation planning & design
- Regional NPS Coordinator Program
- Development of 9-element or Alternative Watershed-Based Plans
- Updating CWMP/TWMP to 9-element Watershed-Based Plan
- Regional-scale watershed planning for nitrogen impacted areas

Eligible Applicants

Regional Planning Agencies, Councils Of Government, Counties, Conservation Districts, Interstate Agencies, Tribes, and Municipalities.

Next RFP: Early 2026?

Grant Funding (FY 2024): TBD

Match: No Match Required

Program Staff: Meghan Selby
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CWA SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Eligible Activities

- Implement measures that address the prevention, control, and abatement of NPS pollution;
- Build local capacity to conduct NPS management at watershed scale;
- Address goals of the 2025-2029 Massachusetts NPS Management Plan.

Sample Eligible Projects

- Implementation projects that restore impaired waters or protect healthy waters
- Implementation projects to achieve nitrogen reduction from septic systems
- Regional NPS Coordinators Program
- Agricultural Regional NPS Coordinators Program
- NPS Capacity Building & Technology Transfer
- Municipal/Regional Stormwater Collaborative & Funding Mechanisms

Eligible applicants

Any Massachusetts public or private organization and interstate agencies.

Next RFP: Early 2026?

Grant Funding (FFY 25 & 26): TBD

Non-Federal Match: 40%

Program Staff: Malcolm Harper
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NPS CASE STUDIES

CWA S.604(b) - Braintree Sub-Watershed Assessment & Stormwater Retrofit (19-05/604)

Target Waterbody: Monatiquot River (Category 5)

Project summary:

- Identify & prioritize potential sites
- Identify & evaluate town-owned sites
- Develop conceptual designs & cost estimates
- Conduct a public engagement program

Proposed pollutant load reductions:

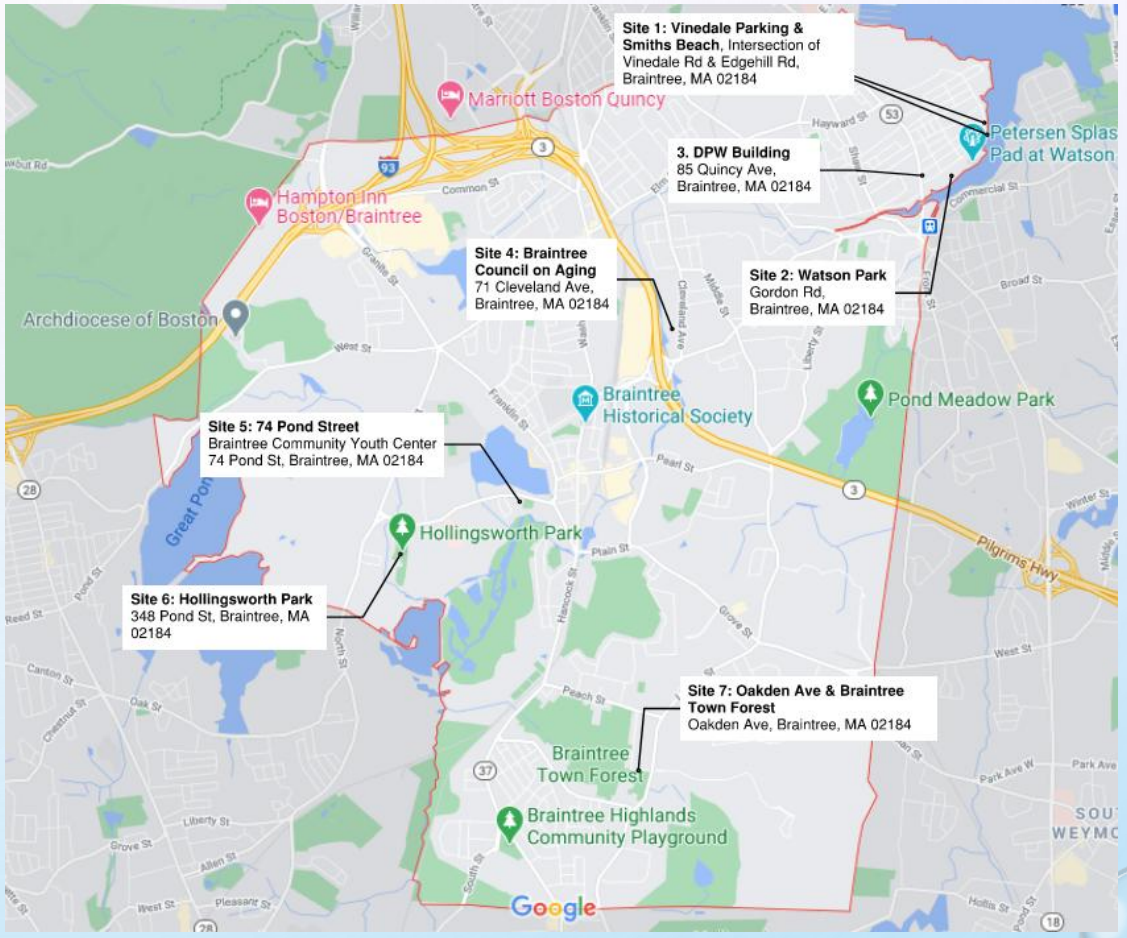
TP: 84 lb/yr

TN: 182 lb/yr

TSS: 31,657 lb/yr

E. Coli: 2 billion colonies/yr

Total Cost:	**$39,881**	
Funding:	$30,623	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$9,258	Town of Braintree



Prioritized project sites in Braintree, MA in proximity to the Monatiquot River (Town of Braintree, MA)

CWA S.319 - Braintree Council on Elder Affairs Retrofit - Town of Braintree (22-06/319)

Target Waterbody: Monatiquot River (Category 5)

Project summary:

- Completed conceptual design and installed a bioretention basin, vegetated swale and proprietary wq structure at a site identified during the Sub-watershed Assessment & Stormwater Retrofit Project (19-05/604)
- Treats the first inch of stormwater runoff from a 10.48-acre drainage area that includes 6.95 acres of impervious cover
- Developed and implemented a long-term operation and maintenance plan
- Outreach and education including multilingual signage

Estimated pollutant load reductions:

TP: 11 lb/yr

TN: 93 lb/yr

TSS: 3,175 lb/yr

E. coli: 576 billion colonies/yr

Bioretention basin installed at the Council on Elder Affairs property (Town of Braintree, MA)

Total Cost:	**$276,100**	
Funding:	$138,250	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$137,850	Town of Braintree

CWA S.319 - Watson Park BMP Implementation Project – Town of Braintree (22-09/319)

Target Waterbody: Monatiquot River (Category 5)

Project Summary:

- Completed final designs and installed a subsurface infiltration system with chambers (Watson Park) and a bioretention/infiltration basin with pretreatment wq unit (Plain Street Cemetery) identified in 19-05/604
- Watson Park BMP treats the first inch of stormwater runoff from a 5.38-acre drainage area that includes 2.35 acres of impervious cover.
- Plain Street Cemetery BMP treats the first inch of stormwater runoff from a 5.53-acre drainage area that includes 1.7 acres of impervious cover.
- Developed operations & maintenance plan
- Conducted outreach and education including multilingual signage

Subsurface infiltration system installed at Watson Park (Town of Braintree, MA)

Proposed Pollutant Load Reductions:

TP: 7 lb/yr

TN: 57 lb/yr

TSS: 2,243 lb/yr

E. coli: 532 billion colonies/yr

Total Cost:	**$639,593**	
Funding:	$375,000	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$264,593	Town of Braintree & Project Partners

Infiltration chamber (Courtesy of StormTech)

CWA S.319 – Lake Waushakum BMPs – City of Framingham (22-10/319)

Target Waterbody: Lake Waushakum (Category 5)

Project summary:

- Install water quality bioretention swale at town beach
- Enhance shoreline riparian buffer
- Develop and conduct robust and comprehensive public education and outreach programs

Proposed Pollutant Load Reductions:

TP: 2.8 lb/yr

TN: 25.5 lb/yr

TSS: 835 lb/yr

E. coli: 10,928 billion cfu/yr

Water quality/bioretention swale installed at Lake Waushakum (City of Framingham)

Total Cost:	**$575,980**	
Funding:	$249,980	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$326,000	City of Framingham

CWA S.604(b) - Mystic Infiltration Trench Siting and Design Project - City Of Everett (20-04/604)

Target Waterbody: Mystic River (Category 5) and tributaries

Project Summary:

- Reviewed Town of Arlington's infiltration trench pilot project
- Conducted desktop assessment to determine suitable areas of focus
- 250 sites in 8 towns identified in desktop assessment
- Obtained municipal feedback and develop a finalized list of candidate sites
- Developed individual design packages for each municipality
- Developed a stormwater outreach and education program

Proposed Pollutant Load Reductions:

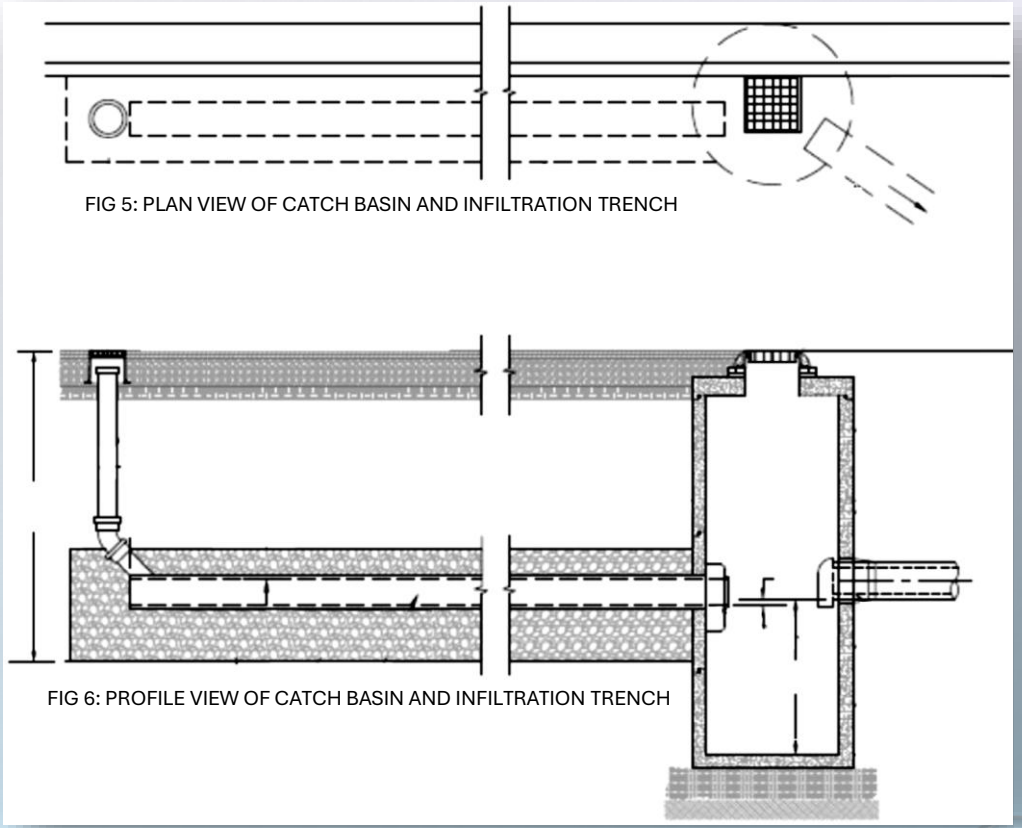
TP: 0.09 lb/unit/yr

TN: 0.56 lb/unit/yr

TSS: 26 lb/unit/yr

Volume Reduction: 144 cf/unit/yr

Total Cost:	**$48,802**	
Funding:	$40,450	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$8,352	City of Everett & Project Partners



Plan and profile view of catch basin and infiltration trench (City of Everett and MyRWA)

CWA S.319 - Distributed Small-scale Street Trenches for Phosphorus Load Reduction Project - MyRWA (21-01/319)

Target Waterbody: Mystic River (Category 5) and tributaries

Project Summary:

- Installed 48 small-scale infiltration street trenches in Arlington, Medford, Winchester and Woburn.
- Design of infiltration trenches and a rain garden in the City of Woburn
- Developed and conducted robust youth education programming, community engagement activities and public information and community education sessions

Proposed Pollutant Load Reductions:

TP: 20 lb/yr

TN: 184 lb/yr

TSS: 5176 lb/yr

Total Cost:	**$1,237,574**	
Funding:	$422,233	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$815,341	MyRWA & Project Partners

Infiltration trench being installed in the Mystic River watershed (MyRWA)

CWA S.319 - Distributed Small-scale Street Trenches For Phosphorus Load Reduction in an Urbanized Watershed - MyRWA (24-02/319)

Target Waterbody: Mystic River (Category 5) and tributaries

Project summary:

- Finalize site selection and site design
- Install at least 60 infiltration street trenches in six municipalities (Cambridge, Malden, Medford, Lexington, Reading and Woburn)
- Prepare long-term operation and maintenance plan
- Develop green infrastructure curriculum and outreach materials such as bilingual stormwater infographics, share previously developed working model of a trench with students in the project municipalities, hold a public outreach forum to share findings and lessons learned from the project.

Proposed Pollutant Load Reductions:

TP: 19.5 lb/yr

TN: 36 lb/yr

TSS: 1,690 lb/yr

Total Cost:	**$989,640**	
Funding:	$869,640	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	$120,000	MyRWA & Project Partners

Post-construction of infiltration trench in Arlington (City of Arlington)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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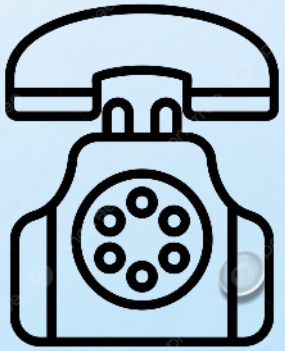

THANK YOU!!