



Roadways and Waterways: Working Upstream to Keep it Clean

When you think of a State Transportation Agency what do you think of? Big orange plow trucks? Crews patching potholes? Roadway or bridge reconstruction? What about where all that rainwater or snowmelt goes after it falls on or melts off road surfaces? This is called "Stormwater Runoff" and it flows off of the 14,000 miles of paved or gravel roads across the state, sometimes making its way into rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands. Stormwater runoff can collect pollutants along the way to discharging into these waterways. Additionally, this large amount of water racing from the paved and graveled surfaces to these waterways causes erosion within a stream and along its banks. In some cases, runoff can cause water bodies to become impaired to a point of not meeting State Water Quality Standards, meaning they are no longer ideal for swimming, fishing or supporting aquatic life.

Did you know that of the 14,000 road miles in Vermont 25% is under VTTrans control and 75% is managed by Municipalities and that 55% of Municipal roads are gravel or dirt? So, how is VTTrans addressing stormwater runoff?

Managing stormwater is a top priority for VTTrans, and we are strengthening Stormwater programs and building partnerships to improve water quality throughout the state.

VTTrans is working to integrate stormwater management across the Agency and fostering a new way of thinking about water quality. We are integrating stormwater and surface water quality concerns early in the project development process, and putting a greater focus on Asset Management including inventory, mapping, and maintenance of our infrastructure to ensure that we can systematically improve the relationship between our structures and our watersheds.

VTTrans is also implementing a Water Quality Enhancement Program, building a Stormwater

Retrofit Program, and implementing a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program. We are enhancing partnerships and collaboration with municipalities, watershed groups and state and federal agencies to raise public awareness and address surface water quality issues through programs like Better Back Roads, VT Local Roads, the Town Grant Programs and the Municipal Assistance Bureau. We are also increasing the level of technical assistance available to municipalities to help them address their responsibility in managing those roads under their authority. VTTrans is working to increase education and awareness of stormwater and water

quality both internally and externally so we can all continue to enjoy Vermont's waters the way they should be experienced.

For more information visit:

http://vtransoperations.vermont.gov/technical_services/environmental