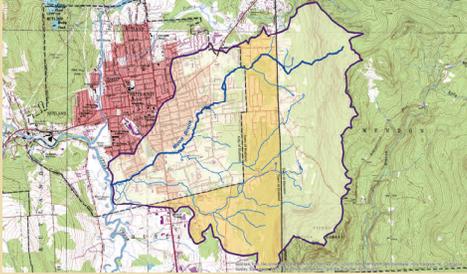


## MOON BROOK

The Moon Brook watershed begins in Mendon and extends into Rutland Town and the City of Rutland.



Since stormwater runoff after rainstorms and snowmelt is *NOT TREATED* before it flows into our streams, Moon Brook can become polluted.



Oftentimes, minor practical changes to our daily habits can help keep pollutants out of our stormwater and local waterways, such as Moon Brook.



## Town of Rutland, Vermont

181 Business Route 4  
Center Rutland, VT 05736-0102

Phone: 802-770-5072  
Fax: 802-773-7295  
E-mail: [rutlandtown@rutlandtown.com](mailto:rutlandtown@rutlandtown.com)



*Water Wise* was formed in 2014 to encourage Rutland Town residents to get personally involved in reducing stormwater pollution in Moon Brook.

Resident  
Rutland Town, VT

# WATER WISE

Stormwater Resources for Rutland Town, Vermont

## *A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater*

Everything you need to know about stormwater pollution and what steps you can take to be water wise!!

### **What is stormwater runoff?**

Stormwater runoff occurs when water from rain or snowmelt does not percolate or absorb into the ground.



### **Why is it a problem?**

This excess water flows over the land and impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops.

It picks up debris, chemicals, sediment or other pollutants and goes into our waterways untreated!





### Residential

#### Soil and Lawn Care

We in Vermont are fortunate because most of our lawns and gardens do not need fertilizer. Unnecessary use of fertilizers and pesticides contribute to water pollution when they wash off and make their way into our storm-water system.

- Apply fertilizers in the fall, around Labor Day, not in the spring!
- Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides just before rain is forecast.
- Don't over water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Don't blow, sweep, rake or hose yard waste into the street gutter or storm drain.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn or compost them.

#### Residential landscaping

##### Permeable pavement

Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.



##### Rain barrels

You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.

##### Rain gardens and gassy swales

Specifically-designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftops or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into the storm drain.

#### Pet waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- Pick up pet wastes and dispose of it in the trash or by flushing.



## Stormwater Pollution Solutions

What you need to know to prevent you from becoming a stormwater polluter!

# WATER WISE

Stormwater Resources for Rutland Town, Vermont

### Auto care

Oil and grease from cars, asbestos from brake linings, zinc from tires, and toxics from spilled fluids can make their way into the Rutland Town storm drain system and get into local waterways UNTREATED. Follow these practices to help prevent stormwater pollution:

#### Washing Vehicles

- Take vehicles to a car wash to prevent oil and grease, suspended solids and other toxics from washing into storm drains. At home, vehicles should be washed on the lawn, which can absorb unwanted runoff. Even biodegradable soap can be toxic to fish and wildlife.



#### Cleaning work sites

- Avoid hosing down your garage floor and driveway; instead, sweep regularly. Also, use non-toxic cleaning products. A water and baking soda mixture can remove corrosion from battery terminals and clean chrome. Mix the soda with a mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to clean wheels and tires.

#### Spills

- Avoid accidental spills by using a drip pan and funnel when draining or pouring fluids. Be ready for unexpected spills by preparing and using spill containment and cleanup kits. Kits should include safety equipment and cleanup materials such as kitty litter, sawdust or cornmeal.



#### Recycling

- The law requires us to recycle motor oil and lead acid batteries.



### Agriculture

- Keep livestock away from streambanks and provide them with a water source away from waterbodies.

- Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management program.
- Vegetate riparian areas along waterways.
- Rotate animal grazing to prevent soil erosion in fields.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.

### Forestry

- Conduct pre-harvest planning to cut costs and prevent erosion.
- Use logging methods and equipment that minimize soil disturbance.
- Plan and design skid trails, yard areas, and truck access roads to minimize stream crossings and avoid disturbing the forest floor.
- Construct stream crossings so that they minimize erosion and physical changes to streams.
- Expedite revegetation of cleared areas.



### Construction

- Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
- Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls, and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms.
- Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as