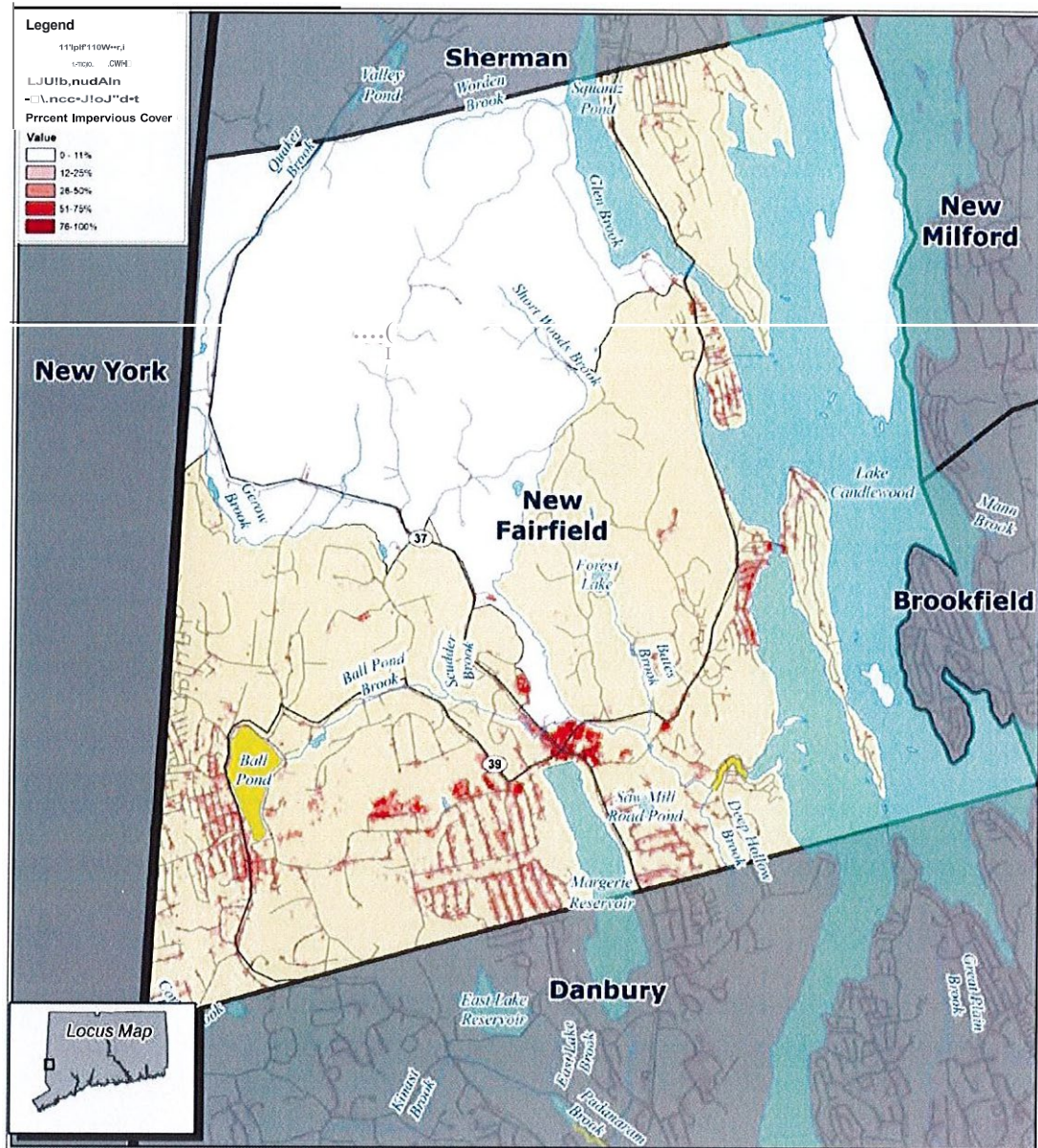


Stormwater Management and the MS4 Permit



General Stormwater Knowledge

How do we define Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff arrives from rain and snowmelt flowing over land or impervious surfaces (pavement from roads, parking lots, building rooftops) and does not soak into the ground. Runoff accumulates contaminants that we don't want entering our ecosystem, and can lead to harmful pollutants entering the Town's streams, lakes, and groundwater.

Why is our Stormwater Drainage System Important?

Our infrastructure is crucial for protecting roadways and the environment by allowing for rainwater to enter local waterways that ultimately lead to the Long Island Sound. Aside from flood mitigation by keeping free flowing drainage systems, we need to keep in mind the contaminants we allow into these systems and their affect on nature, such as increased risk of algal blooms, increased recreational waters danger, and potential harm to aquatic wildlife.

Common occurrences of stormwater pollutants can be seen at:

1. Construction sites.
2. Lawns.
3. Improperly stored hazardous wastes.
4. Illegal dumping.



Common sources of pollutants:

1. Chemicals - pesticides, fertilizer, weed & pest killers, vehicle fluids, etc.
2. Debris and forms of litter, like cigarette butts, household trash, fast food takeout, etc.
3. Pet and animal waste.
4. Salt.
5. Soil, sand, and sediments.



DID YOU KNOW?
A spill of only *one* gallon of oil can contaminate a *million* gallons of water.

MS4 General Permit - The Basics

What is an MS4?

The Town of New Fairfield owns and maintains an MS4: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. This system functions to collect stormwater throughout the Town and helps it move through the local watershed area (Housatonic) that drains into the Long Island Sound. The MS4 network contains infrastructure like catch basins, piping, and ditches. The Town of New Fairfield does not have a sewer system, so wastewater does not mix with stormwater. The purpose of MS4 is to prevent floods and maintain clean water.

Through increased commercial and residential developments comes the increase of what we call impervious surfaces, like paved parking lots. The prevalence of impervious surfaces has increased the impact of contamination of local watersheds water bodies.



What is the MS4 Permit?

The MS4 permit serves to maximize stormwater pollution mitigation for the Town of New Fairfield as it used guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The goal of MS4 was to improve the country's waterways through the action of reducing pollutant discharges to surface water bodies. This permit has been required by 121 of Connecticut's 169 Towns based on the identification of "urbanized areas" which accounts for population, population density, impervious cover, and more.

The Town of New Fairfield follows protocols of the MS4 permit which includes best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for the following six minimum control measures:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation/ Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post Construction Stormwater Management
- Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping

For each minimum control measure, the Town has defined appropriate BMPs, designated a person(s) and job title responsible for each BMP, defined a time frame for implementation for each BMP, and defined measurable goals for each BMP.

Required by the permit is an annual submission, Annual MS4 Report, which contains the status of permit progress, including initiatives from screening and sampling of the Town's stormwater outfalls through the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program, to matters like informing and educating the public on ways to mitigate stormwater pollution, including the emphasis on avoiding residential illicit discharge connections to New Fairfield's MS4.

Town of New Fairfield's MS4 Annual Reports

<https://www.newfairfield.org/Home/Components/News/News/950/1069>

Useful Resources for More Information

<https://nemo.uconn.edu/ms4/tools/fags/>

<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/urbanization-and-stormwater-runoff>