

Manual last updated on: 5/4/06

MASSACHUSETTS **Nonpoint Source Pollution** Management Manual



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION





COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
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ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, Jr.
Commissioner

January 18, 2006

Dear Municipal Official,

Welcome to the **Massachusetts Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Manual**.

Nonpoint source pollution is everywhere, affecting surface and groundwater quality in both urban and rural areas. It occurs when rainfall and snowmelt pick up and transport pollutants found on land that has been disturbed or affected by land use. The pollutants are deposited in rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes and ponds, resulting in water quality problems that affect human health and safety as well as wildlife habitat and other natural resources.

The universal nature of nonpoint source pollution makes it very difficult to control. However, there is a vast number of effective activities and practices, called "Best Management Practices (BMPs)," that can be carried out to help prevent and correct nonpoint source pollution problems. The majority of these practices are within the control of municipal officials, who can exert a powerful influence on land use activities and resource management at the local level. We offer the Massachusetts Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Manual as a tool for local officials, to encourage the use of Best Management Practices that will help Massachusetts's cities and towns protect their resources and encourage good environmental stewardship in their communities.

This Manual is a revision of the original 1994 Nonpoint Source Management Manual (the "MegaManual"). This version has been designed in CD-ROM and web format rather than as hard copy. The electronic format allows access to limitless resources by taking advantage of links to other documents and web sites where additional information is available. It also enables an innovative "BMP selector tool" which will allow you to go directly to BMP fact sheets that are appropriate for your specific problem or resource.

Much has been done to protect our valuable natural resources, but much work remains. Leadership at the local level is an essential component to ensure a clean environment for future generations. I hope that this Manual will serve not only as guidance, but as an incentive to communities to continue to reach toward the goal of clean surface and groundwater resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Haas".

Glenn Haas
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Resource Protection

This information is available in alternate format by calling our ADA Coordinator at (617) 574-6872.

DEP on the World Wide Web: <http://www.state.ma/dep>

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MASSACHUSETTS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION MANAGEMENT MANUAL

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau Of Resource Protection**

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Department Of Environmental Protection
Robert W. Gollledge, Jr., Commissioner

Bureau Of Resource Protection
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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This project has been financed with Federal Funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (the Department) under the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Competitive Grant Program. The contents of this Manual do not necessarily represent the policies or recommendations of the referenced agencies and organizations, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use. Nonpoint source pollution abatement strategies and technologies are constantly changing, and are based on current understanding of the problems and available technologies. This Manual presents up-to-date information about nonpoint source pollution, but the reader is urged to seek out other sources of information as well as professional advice as may be appropriate for the circumstances.



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To access the BMP Selector Tool [CLICK HERE](#)

BMP FACT SHEETS:

This manual includes a wide variety of detailed fact sheets on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for NPS Pollution Control. Click on the links below to go directly to any of these fact sheets or the chapters they appear in.

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Bold purple indicates that a term is defined in the Glossary of Terms.

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