

We're working every day to keep your waterways and drinking water clean and healthy.

With more than 90% of our drinking water coming from local sources along the **Neponset and Charles Rivers**, Dedham depends on clean waterways.



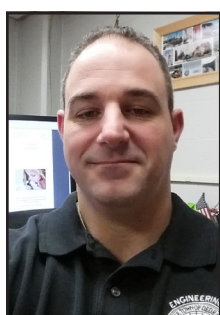
Healthy waterways are also important for canoeing, kayaking, watching wildlife, or fishing on the Neponset or Charles Rivers.

Just like most towns in Massachusetts, Dedham faces a problem with **stormwater pollution**. Runoff from our parking lots, roads, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces carries pollution into our water bodies. This pollution can make water bodies unsightly, and unsafe for swimming, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities.

Dedham is working towards a cleaner future by partnering with neighboring towns and the **Neponset River Watershed Association** to tackle stormwater pollution. Dedham, like many other communities, is also facing strict new stormwater regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency, and we are committed to meeting them.

Through our partnership with the Neponset River Watershed Association we have been able to secure grants to cover the cost of completing projects to keep our streams cleaner, like the **Mother Brook** project described on the back of this brochure.

In addition to the work Dedham is doing, we are encouraging residents and businesses to do their part to **"Soak up the Rain"**. Simple steps like those described below can make a big difference when it comes to preventing water pollution. Learn more at: www.neponset.org/soak-up-the-rain



With your help, we can keep our local waterways clean!

Sincerely,

Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Dedham Department of Public Works

Join friends and neighbors, and help keep Dedham's waterways and drinking water clean and healthy for future generations.

Dedham has problems with polluted stormwater runoff.

Like most towns in Massachusetts, Dedham has many acres of pavement, concrete, and other **"impervious surfaces"**. It's everywhere—our roadways, parking lots, playgrounds, and rooftops.

When rain hits these hard surfaces, it washes pollutants like **pet waste, bacteria, oil, litter, fertilizer, and grass clippings** into streams and town owned storm drains.

The storm drains discharge the **untreated polluted stormwater runoff** to local waterways—the Charles and Neponset Rivers—impacting the health of our drinking water, wildlife, and recreation.



Keep pavement clean and "soak up the rain" to stop stormwater pollution.



Dedham needs residents like you to help by keeping our pavement clean in the first place, and by encouraging stormwater runoff to **soak into the ground** naturally before it reaches town storm drains.

Rain gardens are a simple project you can build at home to help soak up the rain.

Redirecting pavement runoff into a rain garden allows pollutants to be naturally filtered by plants and soil. It also reduces flooding and increases groundwater recharge.



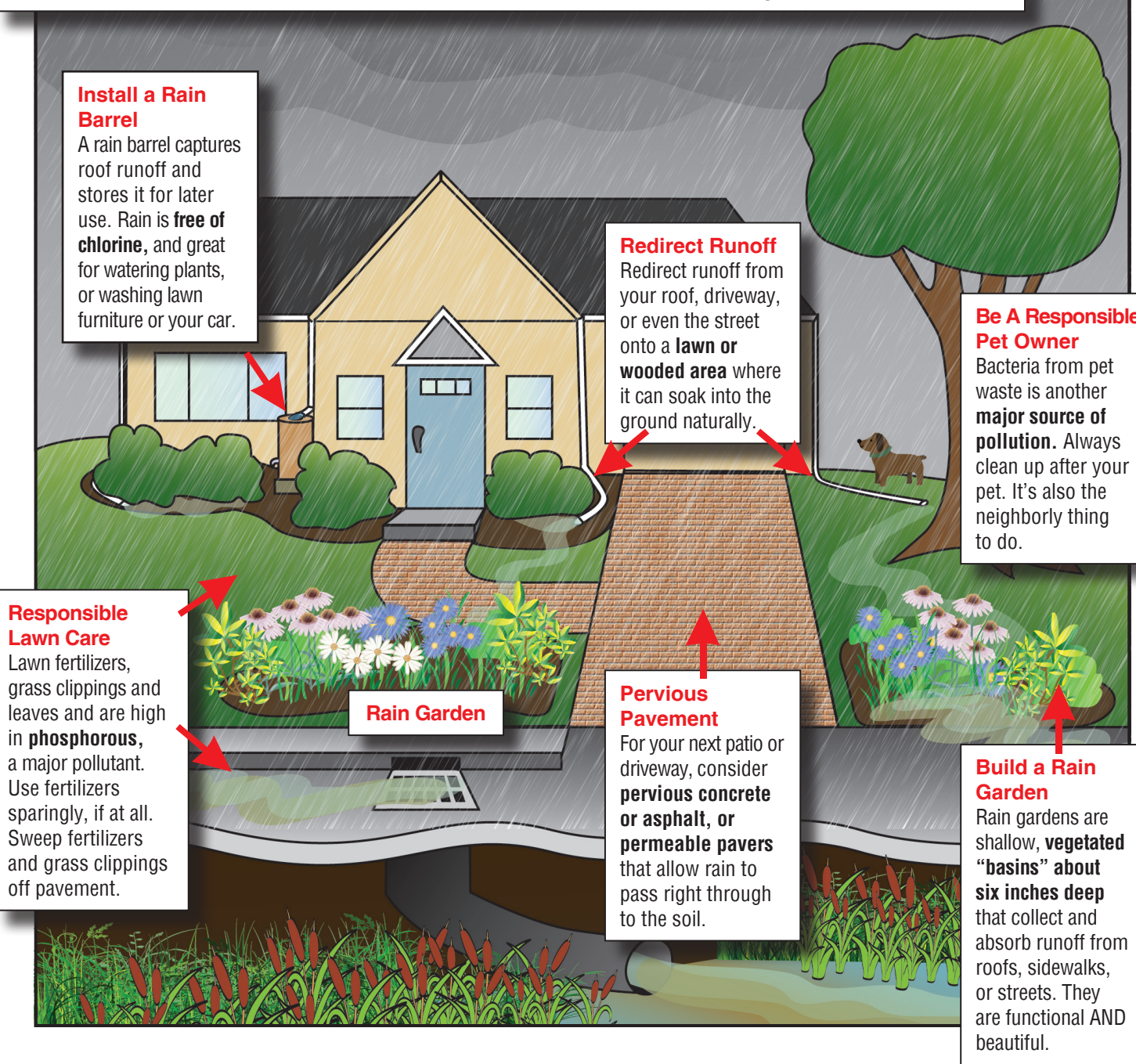
Rain barrels are another simple project that can be used to store rain water for watering your lawn or garden.

Discounted rain barrels are available from the Dedham-Westwood Water District: www.dwwd.org/rain-barrels

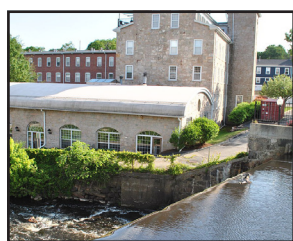
There's a lot that you can do to **"soak up the rain"** on your property to prevent local water pollution. It's easier and less expensive than you may think! Learn more at www.neponset.org/soak-up-the-rain

Polluted stormwater flows from stormdrains directly into local waterways, untreated. Here's what you can do to prevent pollution.

Implementing simple projects around your property, such as **rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious pavement, and downspout redirection** helps to keep pollution from reaching our streams and rivers.



Mother Brook Stormwater Grant



Mother Brook is an important, historic waterway in Dedham that connects the Charles and Neponset Rivers. **It is the first man made canal in the United States.** Unfortunately, Mother Brook has been impacted by stormwater runoff and other pollution over the years.



Mother Brook marker, 1640

Last year, the Town of Dedham partnered with the **Neponset River Watershed Association** and was awarded a grant from the **Mass Department of Environmental Protection** and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** to clean up the polluted stormwater entering Mother Brook.



Sawmill Lane—pre-construction

Over the past several months, the **Dedham Department of Public Works** has been busy constructing several **stormwater treatment structures**. These structures allow road runoff to soak through the ground and be naturally filtered by soil and plants, instead of carrying pollution into Mother Brook.

There are two new **bioretention areas** on **Colburn Street** and **Sawmill Lane**, and one area that will be built on **Avery Street**. Bioretention areas—also known as **rain gardens**—are low areas that use soil and plants to filter and treat runoff. They prevent pollution from entering our streams.

Learn more about rain gardens and other methods to prevent stormwater pollution at www.neponset.org/soak-up-the-rain



Sawmill Lane—post-construction

This project was funded in part by a grant from the **US Environmental Protection Agency** and **Mass Department of Environmental Protection**. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of **EPA** or **MassDEP**.

