

**Year 7 Annual Report**  
**Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit**  
**Reporting Period: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025**

*\*\*Please DO NOT attach any documents to this form. Instead, attach all requested documents to an email when submitting the form. Also ensure any websites included on this form are to publicly accessible sites\*\**

*Unless otherwise noted, all fields are required to be filled out. If a field is left blank, it will be assumed the requirement or task has not been completed. Please ONLY report on activities between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 unless otherwise requested.*

**Part I: Contact Information**

Name of Municipality or Organization:

EPA NPDES Permit Number:

**Primary MS4 Program Manager Contact Information**

Name:  Title:

Street Address Line 1:

Street Address Line 2:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

Email:  Phone Number:

**Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Information**

SWMP Location (publicly available web address):

Date SWMP was Last Updated:

If the SWMP is not available on the web please provide the physical address:

## Part II: Self-Assessment

First, in the box below, select the impairment(s) and/or TMDL(s) that are applicable to your MS4. Make sure you are referring to the most recent EPA approved Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List which can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/region-1-impaired-waters-and-303d-lists-state>

**Impairment(s)**

Bacteria/Pathogens     
  Chloride     
  Nitrogen     
  Phosphorus  
 Solids/ Oil/ Grease (Hydrocarbons)/ Metals

**TMDL(s)**

*In State:*

Assabet River Phosphorus     
  Bacteria and Pathogen     
  Cape Cod Nitrogen  
 Charles River Watershed Phosphorus     
  Lake and Pond Phosphorus

*Out of State:*

Bacteria/Pathogens     
  Metals     
  Nitrogen     
  Phosphorus

Next, check off all requirements below that have been completed. **By checking each box you are certifying that you have completed that permit requirement fully.** If you have not completed a requirement leave the box unchecked. Additional information will be requested in later sections.

Year 7 Requirements

- Completed catchment investigations associated with Problem Outfalls
- Completed catchment investigations where information gathered on the outfall/interconnection indicated sewer input

Annual Requirements

- Provided an opportunity for public participation in review and implementation of SWMP and complied with State Public Notice requirements
- Kept records relating to the permit available for 5 years and made available to the public
- The SSO inventory has been updated, including the status of mitigation and corrective measures implemented
  - This is not applicable because we do not have sanitary sewer
  - This is not applicable because we did not find any new SSOs
  - The updated SSO inventory is attached to the email submission
  - The updated SSO inventory can be found at the following publicly available website:

- Updated system map due in year 10 with information from completed catchment investigations
- Provided training to employees involved in IDDE program within the reporting period
- Properly stored and disposed of catch basin cleanings and street sweepings so they did not discharge to receiving waters

- All curbed roadways were swept at least once within the reporting period
- Enclosed all road salt storage piles or facilities and implemented winter road maintenance procedures to minimize the use of road salt
- Implemented SWPPPs for all permittee owned or operated maintenance garages, public works yards, transfer stations, and other waste handling facilities
- Updated inventory of all permittee owned facilities as necessary
- O&M programs for all permittee owned facilities have been completed and updated as necessary
- Implemented all maintenance procedures for permittee owned facilities in accordance with O&M programs
- Implemented program for MS4 infrastructure maintenance to reduce the discharge of pollutants
- Inspected all permittee owned treatment structures (excluding catch basins)

*Optional:* If you would like to describe progress made on any incomplete requirements listed above or provide any additional details, please use the box below:

Blackstone does not have any Problem Outfalls, and no screening to date has indicated sewer input at any outfall/ interconnection.

The Town of Blackstone updated its O&M plan to include procedures for winter road maintenance, street sweeping, and structural stormwater BMPs in Permit Year 7.

12 known municipally-owned stormwater BMPs were inspected in Permit Year 7. The structural stormwater BMP inventory is included in the Town's O&M Plan.

**Bacteria/ Pathogens** (Combination of Impaired Waters Requirements and TMDL Requirements as Applicable)

Annual Requirements

*Public Education and Outreach\**

- Annual message was distributed encouraging the proper management of pet waste, including noting any existing ordinances where appropriate
- Permittee or its agents disseminated educational material to dog owners at the time of issuance or renewal of dog license, or other appropriate time
- Provided information to owners of septic systems about proper maintenance in any catchment that discharges to a water body impaired for bacteria
  - This is not applicable because there are no septic systems present

*\* Public education messages can be combined with other public education requirements as applicable (see Appendix F and H for more information)*

*Optional:* If you would like to describe progress made on any incomplete requirements listed above or provide any additional details, please use the box below:

**Phosphorus** (Combination of Impaired Waters Requirements and TMDL Requirements as Applicable)

Annual Requirements

*Public Education and Outreach\**

- Distributed an annual message in the spring (April/May) encouraging the proper use and disposal of grass clippings and encouraging the proper use of slow-release and phosphorus-free fertilizers
- Distributed an annual message in the summer (June/July) encouraging the proper management of pet waste, including noting any existing ordinances where appropriate
- Distributed an annual message in the fall (August/September/October) encouraging the proper disposal of leaf litter

*\* Public education messages can be combined with other public education requirements as applicable (see Appendix H and F for more information)*

*Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention for Permittee Owned Operations*

- Increased street sweeping frequency of all municipal owned streets and parking lots subject to Permit part 2.3.7.a.iii.(c) to a minimum of two times per year (spring and fall)

*Structural BMPs*

- Installed a structural BMP as a demonstration project within the drainage area of the water quality limited water or its tributaries. The type of BMP installed is (*e.g. biofiltration*):

Any structural BMPs already existing or installed in the regulated area by the permittee or its agents was tracked and the phosphorus removal by the BMP was estimated consistent with Attachment 3 to Appendix F. The BMP type, total area treated by the BMP, the design storage volume of the BMP, and the estimated phosphorus removed in mass per year by the BMP were documented.

- No BMPs were installed
  - The above referenced BMP information is attached to the email submission
  - The above referenced BMP information can be found at the following publicly available website:

Total estimated phosphorus removed in **lbs/year** from the installed BMPs:

*Optional:* If you would like to describe progress made on any incomplete requirements listed above or provide any additional details, please use the box below:

The Town is actively working on identifying a suitable site for installation of a structural BMP in the Blackstone River watershed.

The Town of Blackstone does not currently have any impaired water bodies with an approved TMDL for phosphorus. However, the Town does have direct discharges to water bodies that are impaired for phosphorus without an approved TMDL. Appendix H does not require permittees to estimate the amount of phosphorus removed by existing structural BMPs - that is only a requirement for permittees discharging to a waterbody with an existing TMDL for phosphorus and therefore not applicable to Blackstone.

**Solids, Oil and Grease (Hydrocarbons), or Metals**

Annual Requirements

*Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention for Permittee Owned Operations*

- Increased street sweeping frequency of all municipal owned streets and parking lots to a schedule that targets areas with potential for high pollutant loads
  - The street sweeping schedule is attached to the email submission
  - The street sweeping schedule can be found at the following publicly available website:

- Prioritized inspection and maintenance for catch basins to ensure that no sump shall be more than 50 percent full; Cleaned catch basins more frequently if inspection and maintenance activities indicated excessive sediment or debris loadings

*Optional:* If you would like to describe progress made on any incomplete requirements listed above or provide any additional details, please use the box below:

The Town of Blackstone currently has a comprehensive street sweeping plan, where streets are swept twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. Written procedures for street sweeping are included in the Town's O&M Plan.

As the Town continues to collect data for its Catch Basin Cleaning Optimization Plan, the Town will be using the data it collects to identify areas of higher sediment loading within the Blackstone River watershed, which will be incorporated into the schedule for potentially increased sweeping.

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*Optional:* Use the box below to provide any additional information you would like to share as part of your self-assessment:

### Part III: Receiving Waters/Impaired Waters/TMDL

Have you made any changes to your lists of receiving waters, outfalls, or impairments since the NOI was submitted?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, describe below, including any relevant impairments or TMDLs:

There are 90 regulated outfalls and interconnections under Town ownership. As mapping efforts continue in Permit Year 8, the number of outfalls and interconnections will be updated as needed.

## Part IV: Minimum Control Measures

Please fill out all of the metrics below. If applicable, include in the description who completed the task if completed by a third party.

### MCM1: Public Education

Number of educational messages completed **during this reporting period:**

Below, report on the educational messages completed **during this reporting period**. For the measurable goal(s) please describe the method/measures used to assess the overall effectiveness of the educational program.

#### **BMP:Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips**

Message Description and Distribution Method:

With each quarterly water bill, the Town distributes simple tips for preventing pollutants from entering stormwater. Tips cover pet waste management, proper disposal of disposable wipes, water conservation, proper storage of snow piles, and limiting salt and de-icer use.

Targeted Audience:

Responsible Department/Parties:

Measurable Goal(s):

The information was mailed to 2,700 residents with water bills.

Message Date(s):

Message Completed for: Appendix F Requirements  Appendix H Requirements

Was this message different than what was proposed in your NOI? Yes  No

If yes, describe why the change was made:

#### **BMP:Stormwater Awareness: Septic Systems**

Message Description and Distribution Method:

Informational mailers regarding septic systems, how they work, and proper maintenance.

Targeted Audience:

Responsible Department/Parties:

Measurable Goal(s):

The information was mailed to 1,080 residents in March 2025.

Message Date(s):

Message Completed for: Appendix F Requirements  Appendix H Requirements

Was this message different than what was proposed in your NOI? Yes  No

If yes, describe why the change was made:

**BMP:MS4 Stormwater Tips**

Message Description and Distribution Method:

Fall, winter, spring and summer seasonal stormwater tips were posted on the Town's website providing information on a variety of topics, including proper use of lawn care/ fertilizers/chemicals, proper snow storage, proper use of de-icing chemicals, vehicle maintenance and washing, proper disposal of pet waste, and recommending the use of native plants.

Targeted Audience:

Responsible Department/Parties:

Measurable Goal(s):

Message Date(s):

Message Completed for: Appendix F Requirements  Appendix H Requirements

Was this message different than what was proposed in your NOI? Yes  No

If yes, describe why the change was made:

[Add an Educational Message](#)

**MCM2: Public Participation**

Describe the opportunity provided for public involvement in the development of the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) **during this reporting period:**

[Empty text box]

Was this opportunity different than what was proposed in your NOI? Yes  No

Describe any other public involvement or participation opportunities conducted **during this reporting period:**

The Town hosted an Earth Day celebration which included collection of roadside trash and a community art project at Roosevelt Park on April 27, 2025 from 8am to 4pm.

The Town hosted a Fall Festival on October 5, 2024 in which staff from the DPW distributed informational pamphlets about stormwater.

The Town joined the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition (CMRSC) in September 2024, which distributes educational stormwater content.

### MCM3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

#### Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

Check off the box below if the statement is true.

This SSO section is NOT applicable because we DO NOT have sanitary sewer

Below, report on the number of SSOs identified in the MS4 system and removed **during this reporting period.**

Number of SSOs identified:

Number of SSOs removed:

#### MS4 System Mapping

Percent of Phase II map complete:

*Optional:* Provide additional status information regarding your map:

The Town continues to map new outfalls, interconnections and BMPs as they are identified. The Town is actively working to meet Phase II mapping requirements. Extensive mapping efforts were completed in Permit Year 7 and catchment area delineations were updated based on newly identified infrastructure and mapping updates identified during catchment investigations.

#### Screening of Outfalls/Interconnections

*If conducted, please submit any outfall monitoring results from this reporting period. Outfall monitoring results should include the date, outfall/interconnection identifier, location, weather conditions at time of sampling, precipitation in previous 48 hours, field screening parameter results, and results from all analyses. Please also include the updated inventory and ranking of outfalls/interconnections based on monitoring results.*

- No outfalls were inspected
- The above referenced outfall screening data is attached to the email submission
- The above referenced outfall screening data can be found at the following publicly available website:

[Empty text box for website URL]

*Below, report on the number of outfalls/interconnections screened **during this reporting period**.*

Number of outfalls screened:

*Below, report on the percent of outfalls/interconnections screened **to date**.*

Percent of outfalls screened:

*Optional: Provide additional information regarding your outfall/interconnection screening:*

In Permit Year 7, 13 newly identified outfalls were screened and sampled if flow was observed during dry weather. The City performed a majority of their dry weather outfall screening and sampling in Permit Year 3 and screened and sampled newly identified outfalls and interconnections in Permit Year 5, as reflected in the 100% noted above.

### **Catchment Investigations**

*If conducted, please submit all data collected during this reporting period as part of the dry and wet weather investigations. Also include the presence or absence of System Vulnerability Factors for each catchment.*

- No catchment investigations were conducted
- The catchment investigation data is attached to the email submission
- The catchment investigation data can be found at the following publicly available website:

*Below, report on the number of catchment investigations completed **during this reporting period**.*

Number of catchment investigations completed this reporting period:

*Below, report on the percent of catchments investigated **to date**.*

Percent of total catchments investigated:

*Optional: Provide any additional information for clarity regarding the catchment investigations below:*

In Permit Year 7, catchment investigations were initiated in 23 catchment areas and completed in 19 catchment areas. Investigations were deemed incomplete in 4 catchment areas due to incomplete system mapping or ongoing investigations.

Per the permit, the Town is only reporting that catchment investigations are complete in catchments where outfalls/interconnections have been screened during dry weather, where key junction manholes in these catchments have been screened, where wet weather sampling has been completed, and where all results indicate no evidence of likely sewer input based on field observations and sampling. Currently no catchment areas are complete according to these criteria, as wet weather outfall and interconnection sampling has not been started yet.

### **IDDE Progress**

*If illicit discharges were found, please submit a document describing work conducted over this reporting period, and cumulative to date, including location source; description of the discharge; method of discovery; date of discovery; and date of elimination, mitigation, or enforcement OR planned corrective measures and schedule of removal.*

- No illicit discharges were found
- The illicit discharge removal report is attached to the email submission
- The illicit discharge removal report can be found at the following publicly available website:

*Below, report on the number of illicit discharges identified and removed, along with the volume of sewage removed **during this reporting period.***

Number of illicit discharges identified:

Number of illicit discharges removed:

Estimated volume of sewage removed:  gallons/day

*Below, report on the total number of illicit discharges identified and removed to date. At a minimum, report on the number of illicit discharges identified and removed **since the effective date of the permit (July 1, 2018).***

Total number of illicit discharges identified:

Total number of illicit discharges removed:

*Optional:* Provide any additional information for clarity regarding illicit discharges identified, removed, or planned to be removed below:

**Employee Training**

Describe the frequency and type of employee training conducted **during this reporting period:**

**MCM4: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control**

*Below, report on the construction site plan reviews, inspections, and enforcement actions completed **during this reporting period.***

Number of site plan reviews completed:

Number of inspections completed:

Number of enforcement actions taken:

*Optional:* Enter any additional information relevant to construction site plan reviews, inspections, and enforcement actions:

### **MCM5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment**

**As-built Drawings**

*Below, report on the number of as-built drawings received during this reporting period.*

Number of as-built drawings received:

*Optional:* Enter any additional information relevant to the submission of as-built drawings:

**Street Design and Parking Lots Report**

Below, describe any changes made or planned to be made to local regulations and guidelines based on the report completed in Year 4:

No updates are planned at this time.

**Green Infrastructure Report**

Below, describe progress towards making green infrastructure practices allowable based on the report completed in Year 4:

No updates are planned at this time.

**Retrofit Properties Inventory**

Below, list remaining permittee-owned properties that could be modified or retrofitted with BMPs to mitigate impervious areas (must maintain a minimum of 5 sites in inventory until less than 5 sites remain):

1. Blackstone Town Offices
2. Memorial Park
3. Historical Museum
4. Blackstone Public Library
5. John F Kennedy Elementary School
6. Rathbun Street (Diana Street to Ethel Street)
7. Washington Street (Main Street to Brown Street)
8. Liberty Hill Drive
9. Reilly Avenue (Mendon Street to Kimberly Lane)
10. Mendon Street at Lincoln Street
11. Summer Street (Rennie Drive to Blackstone River)
12. Rocco Drive

Below, list all properties that have been modified or retrofitted with BMPs to mitigate impervious area that were inventoried as part of 2.3.6.d of the permit and the type of BMP(s) implemented. Non-MS4 owned properties that have been modified or retrofitted with BMPs to mitigate impervious area may also be listed, but must be indicated as non-MS4.

**MCM6: Good Housekeeping**

**Catch Basin Cleaning**

*Below, report on the number of catch basins inspected and cleaned, along with the total volume of material removed from the catch basins **during this reporting period.***

Number of catch basins inspected:

Number of catch basins cleaned:

Total volume or mass of material removed from all catch basins:

*Below, report on the total number of catch basins in the MS4 system.*

Total number of catch basins:

*If applicable:*

Report on the actions taken if a catch basin sump is more than 50% full during two consecutive routine inspections/cleaning events:

**Street Sweeping**

Report on street sweeping completed **during this reporting period** using one of the three metrics below.

- Number of miles cleaned:
- Volume of material removed:  [Select Units]
- Weight of material removed:  [Select Units]

**Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)**

Below, report on the number of site inspections for facilities that require a SWPPP completed **during this reporting period**.

Number of site inspections completed:

Describe any corrective actions taken at a facility with a SWPPP:

Quarterly site inspections were completed at each facility requiring a SWPPP, which includes the DPW Facility and the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center.

**Additional Information**

**Monitoring or Study Results**

Results from any other stormwater or receiving water quality monitoring or studies conducted during the reporting period not otherwise mentioned above, where the data is being used to inform permit compliance or permit effectiveness must be attached.

- Not applicable
- The results from additional reports or studies are attached to the email submission
- The results from additional reports or studies can be found at the following publicly available website(s):

If such monitoring or studies were conducted on your behalf or if monitoring or studies conducted by other entities were reported to you, a brief description of the type of information gathered or received shall be described below:

**Additional Information**

Enter any additional information relevant to your stormwater management program implementation during the reporting period. Include any BMP modifications made by the MS4 if not already discussed above.

Stormwater Rules & Regulations were adopted by the Blackstone Planning Board in December 2024, which brought the Town into compliance with the post-construction regulatory requirements of the 2016 MA MS4 Permit. Updates to the Town's Stormwater Bylaw (Chapter 110, Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance, of the Town of Blackstone's General Bylaws) were passed at Spring Town meeting in May 2025, supporting the recently adopted Stormwater Rules & Regulations.

**Year 8****Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period**

Please confirm that your SWMP has been, or will be, updated to comply with all applicable permit requirements including but not limited to the year 8 requirements summarized below. (Note: impaired waters and TMDL requirements are not listed below)

Yes, I agree

**Annual Requirements**

- Annual report submitted and available to the public
- Annual opportunity for public participation in review and implementation of SWMP
- Keep records relating to the permit available for 5 years and make available to the public
- Properly store and dispose of catch basin cleanings and street sweepings so they do not discharge to receiving waters
- Annual training to employees involved in IDDE program
- Update inventory of all known locations where SSOs have discharged to the MS4
- Continue public education and outreach program
- Update outfall and interconnection inventory and priority ranking and include data collected in connection with the dry weather screening and other relevant inspections conducted
- Implement IDDE program
- Review site plans of construction sites as part of the construction stormwater runoff control program
- Conduct site inspection of construction sites as necessary
- Inspect and maintain stormwater treatment structures
- Log catch basins cleaned or inspected
- Sweep all curbed streets at least annually
- Continue investigations of catchments associated with Problem Outfalls
- Implemented SWPPPs for all permittee owned or operated maintenance garages, public works yards, transfer stations, and other waste handling facilities
- Review inventory of all permittee owned facilities in the categories of parks and open space, buildings

- and facilities, and vehicles and equipment; update if necessary
- Review O&M programs for all permittee owned facilities; update if necessary
- Implement all maintenance procedures for permittee owned facilities in accordance with O&M programs
- Implement program for MS4 infrastructure maintenance to reduce the discharge of pollutants
- Enclose all road salt storage piles or facilities and implemented winter road maintenance procedures to minimize the use of road salt
- Review as-built drawings for new and redevelopment to ensure compliance with post construction bylaws, regulations, or regulatory mechanism consistent with permit requirements
- Inspect all permittee owned treatment structures (excluding catch basins)
- Identify additional permittee-owned properties that could potentially be modified or retrofitted with BMPs to reduce impervious areas so that the permittee maintains a minimum of 5 sites in their inventory, until such a time when the permittee has less than 5 sites remaining

Provide any additional details on activities planned for permit year 8 below:

## Part V: Certification of Small MS4 Annual Report 2025

### 40 CFR 144.32(d) Certification

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, I certify that the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Name:  Title:

Signature:  Date:

*[Signatory may be a duly authorized representative]*