

WHAT CAN I DO?

While the MRGP only applies to municipal rights-of-way and does not include private roads or driveways, there are some things that landowners can do on their own property to prevent erosion and improve water quality:

- When grading a gravel drive, consider the crown. Make sure that water can effectively flow like a "sheet" off the road.



- Consider increasing the size of any driveway culverts you maintain, especially if you notice erosion.
- If you have a steep drive, think about stabilizing the soil in the ditch. Larger, blocky stone in steep ditches prevents erosion by reducing water velocity.
- If you own lakeshore property, consider reaching out to the Lakewise Program and get recognized for your efforts by applying their BMPs.

VT'S REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AT WORK

The Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA) and each of the member Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are helping municipalities and the road crews bring roads into compliance with the MRGP standards, by:

- Working with towns to provide the technical expertise and in-field time to complete the road erosion inventories,
- Creating reports that help towns prioritize road work to comply with the MRGP standards, and
- Providing assistance to secure funding (especially through the Municipal Roads Grants in Aid and Better Roads programs) to complete this work.

For more information about the Municipal Roads General Permit, visit:
<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater>

For more information about the Municipal Roads Grants in Aid program, visit:
<https://www.vapda.org/gia/>

"WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT ROCK IN THE DITCH?"

*A Landowner's Quick Guide to the
Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)*



Prepared by the
Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies



For more information, visit:
www.vapda.org

ACT 64 AND OUR TOWN ROADS

How Vermont is tackling water quality issues

Act 64 is also known as Vermont's Clean Water Act, and it is referred to as the "all-in" approach to water quality, meaning all Vermonters will have a role in protecting our waters.

Collectively, our roadways are responsible for about 10% of sediment and phosphorus sources to our waters, and municipal roads make up 70% of the State's total road miles. To combat this, Act 64 mandated the creation of the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), which set road drainage standards for that improve water quality, and established a plan for Towns to meet these standards.

We love our streams for their recreational uses and scenic beauty, and these changes that we see on our roads are a direct response to preserving what makes Vermont great.

WHAT IS THE MRGP?

... And what does it mean for my town?

The MRGP helps towns find and fix road erosion issues that impact water quality. It does this through three steps:

1. Inventory



All road segments that drain into a stream, river, or lake are identified (statewide). All of these segments are GPS-inventoried for drainage conditions and erosion locations.

2. Prioritize



Towns analyze the results from that road erosion inventory, and then prioritize the road projects based on the highest potential impact to water quality.

3. Implement



Road crews respond by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.

HOW ROAD CREWS ARE RESPONDING

Implementing Best Management Practices

BMPs to improve water quality are:

- Enabling water to flow like a "sheet" off the road, rather than concentrating flow which leads to erosion,
- Increasing size of road culverts where erosion is present (generally, to 18-inches in diameter) to reduce clogging,
- Stabilizing ditches either with stone (if steep) or vegetation (grass) to prevent soils from being eroded,
- Building up the crown, or the high point in the middle of the road, to allow distributed flow to both sides of the road, and
- Removal of the line of gravel left on the road-side after grading that prevents water from leaving the road.



Towns can receive funding for these projects by applying for grants through either VTrans or the VT Agency of Natural Resources.



Towns are required by the MRGP to fix all identified erosion issues by 2037. Some roads are considered "high priority" and need to be completed before 2025.