Why should you consider a Stormwater Friendly Driveway?

Driveways are an integral part of our residential properties. They afford better access and allow us to park off the street. Stormwater friendly driveways also allow water to soak away into the ground below, where it is filtered by the soil and can recharge groundwater, keep pollutants out of Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake and reduce flooding risks. These driveways help conscientious homeowners reduce their individual contributions to the Town's stormwater runoff challenges.

Unfortunately, our traditional driveways are often direct conduits for polluted runoff to drain quickly from properties into the street. Rain falling on impermeable, paved surfaces collects oil, deicing salts, fertilizers, and gasoline residue as it runs down the driveway to the street. Driveways also often capture runoff from adjacent rooftops, directing an even larger volume of water out to the road than what falls on the driveway. Runoff from sloped gravel or dirt driveways typically carries a significant amount of sediment. Much of this material stays on our streets, creating hazards for cyclists, while the rest of it clogs up stormwater infrastructure and pollutes our lakes – not to mention the money that property owners pay over and over again to replace their lost driveway material.

BENEFITS

Help improve Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake water quality by managing rain where it falls and reducing runoff from storms.

Solve or prevent erosion problems on your property, prevent puddles and the nuisance they create, reduce your use of sand and salt or other deicing chemicals, and keep gravel, sediment, and other pollutants out of your street, storm sewers, and lakes.

Increase the value of your home by beautifying your landscape, while benefiting plants and gardens by recharging the water table on your property.

Stormwater friendly driveways like this one, where an open concrete paver system was planted with grass, offer multiple benefits for homeowners, local infrastructure, and nearby lake water quality.

Town of Wolfeboro

Wentworth Watershed Association – Conserving Wentworth-Crescent Lakes & Lands – Wolfeboro 1930