

# CLEAN WATER NEWSLETTER

Brought to you quarterly by the City of Portland



Volume 1 Issue 1 October 2017



## Recently Completed Projects: (See **Acronym Corner** on reverse for abbreviations used in this issue)

- ◆ Sewer Separations at Anderson Street and Deering Street - Both of these projects added new storm drains, sewer laterals, catch basins, multiple types of green infrastructure (**GI**), to help treat and manage storm-water, such as tree box filters (see reverse). These projects will help reduce **CSOs**, which allow untreated sewerage to discharge to the storm outfalls.
- ◆ Our Stormwater crew recently worked on improvements on this storm drain **ROW**, located near **PATHS** on Allen Avenue. Brush was cleared; erosion control mats were installed; the land was stabilized. This is located in the Dole Brook Watershed. 



## Looking for Credits?? Why not Rain Barrels??

We are often asked why Rain Barrels are **NOT** creditworthy under the Stormwater Service Charge Credit Program. Rain Barrels are a great way to capture the rain and water your garden, **BUT...**

They are temporary structures that do not hold up through the winter due to our climate; they also do not meet the required standards of quantity and quality that are necessary to earn credits. Rain barrels do not actually treat the water, only store it for future use, and most typically hold only 55 to 60 Gallons.

Looking for a similar system to a rain barrel that does earn credit? Maybe think about a Cistern.

\*\*\*Check out all Creditworthy **BMPs** in the **Credit Manual**: [portlandmaine.gov/stormwater](http://portlandmaine.gov/stormwater)\*\*\*

Not Creditworthy

Creditworthy

Creditworthy



### From the Billing Office:

- ◇ Have you sold your Portland property? Please notify our billing office at **207-874-8660** They are always happy to help transfer the bill to a new owner.
- ◇ Paying by check? Please write your account number in the memo line
- ◇ Paying online? Use the link on our billing page:  
<http://portlandmaine.gov/1670/Stormwater-Billing>

### Good Neighbor Tips

- ◇ Clean up pet waste properly - Pet waste contributes harmful bacteria and nutrients to local water bodies when not disposed of properly. Every year the City cleans over 1000 catch basins. This year, we removed over 525 bags of pet waste that were improperly disposed into catch basins. **400** of those came from only **one** particular basin!
- ◇ Lawn and Leaf bags - During fall yard clean up, use bio-degradable paper lawn/leaf bags for your yard waste. These can be placed at the curb during **NOVEMBER** for pickup by the City. Please do not dump yard waste near streams or rivers. This can smother wildlife habitat, increase erosion and increases algae growth.
- ◇ Salt and Sand - Not all snow melting products are the same. Make sure you are using the right one for the temperature. Calcium Chloride (CaCl) and Magnesium Chloride (MgCl) can be harmful to pets paws. Using more product is not always more effective. Try pretreating and clearing the snow as soon as possible, before it becomes hard packed and solid. Over salting can affect fresh water in streams and rivers, harming the natural habitats.

### Acronym Corner:

- ◆ **LID** - Low Impact Development
- ◆ **GI** - Green Infrastructure
- ◆ **CSO** - Combined Sewer Overflow
- ◆ **SSO** - Sanitary Sewer Overflow
- ◆ **CWA** - Clean Water Act
- ◆ **BMP** - Best Management Practice
- ◆ **Stormwater** - rainfall, snowfall, snow melt, ice melt
- ◆ **ROW** - Right of Way
- ◆ **PATHS** - Portland Arts and Technology H.S.

### Contact Us:

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[swcredit@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:swcredit@portlandmaine.gov)

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207-874-8660

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### Tree Box Filter —What does it do?

Have you ever seen one of these on the roadside? This is a tree box filter, just one example of Green Infrastructure (**GI**). It is designed to mimic the natural filtration process in an urban landscape. Stormwater enters through the inlet at the curb, then passes into the filter media, where pollutants are captured or turned into nutrients for the plant. The filtered water is cleaner when it discharges to the nearest waterbody. This helps keep Casco Bay cleaner and healthier for all of us.

