

Project Description- Department of Public Works General Permit

**Nature and Purpose of Project:**

**Purpose of Application:** To obtain a “General Permit” that would cover all routine drainage maintenance activities by the Andover Public Works Department.

**Summary of Proposed Activity:** The proposed activity includes routine maintenance work that the Public Works Department performs throughout the town. This includes work on existing watercourses, drainage pipes, inlets, and outlets, brush and sediment removal, detention basin repairs or replacement, and general roadway repairs.

**Explanation of Proposed Activity:** The intent of this “General Permit” is to cover routine maintenance activities on town drainage systems. These types of activities would not change the purpose and/or flow characteristics of the original intended use and would restore the affected drainage system to its original condition.

Here are the typical maintenance activities that would be covered under this permit:

- Brush removal in swales, ditches, and watercourses in and around drainage culverts where normal flow has been obstructed by overgrown vegetation.
- Sediment removal in swales, ditches, and watercourses in and around drainage culverts where normal flow has been obstructed by eroded upland soils.
- Stabilization of slopes, embankments, inlets and outlets where soil or stone has eroded near a drainage system.
- Tree removal within a watercourse in and around structures, where it is determined that the tree/s and its root system/s may have a negative impact that may create a hazard to said structure. Consultation with the town Tree Warden will take place prior to removal.
- Repair or replacement of defective catch basins, or end or wing walls at inlet/s or outlet/s. If any activity takes place within a roadway, the disturbed roadway would be repaired and repaved.
- Replacement of culverts or drainage pipes 24 inches or less in diameter that do not contain a watercourse, as defined in section 2.36 of Andover’s IWW Regulations.

Prior to these activities taking place, the Public Works Department will notify the Wetlands Agent of the maintenance activity and its location. Proper sedimentation and erosion control measures will be established and maintained during the course of work.

**Feasible and Prudent Alternatives Considered:** The alternative to this “General Permit” is to apply for and obtain an individual wetlands permit for each activity. This would place an undue burden on both the Public Works Department and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

An individual Wetlands Permit application will be filed for any Public Works Department projects that do not fall under the scope of this General Permit, such as new projects, replacement of culverts containing watercourses or culverts greater than 24 inches in diameter, or projects that require significant redesign of existing structures or alteration of drainage flows.