

Strategies That Encourage Green Infrastructure:

City of Newton Stormwater Utility

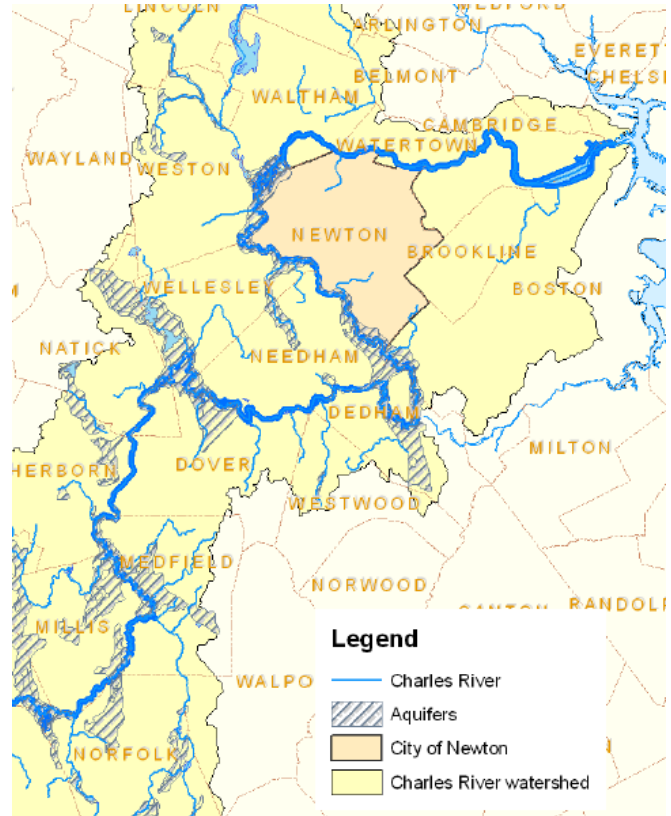
Who: The City of Newton

What: A municipal stormwater utility established to provide a dedicated funding source for stormwater management. Single to four-family dwellings pay a flat fee, while all other properties pay a fee that reflects their stormwater contribution based on square feet of impervious surface.

When: The utility was established in 2006.

Where: The City of Newton, in the Charles River watershed.

Why: The utility was established as a means to finance needed maintenance and improvements for their aging stormwater infrastructure. The impetus for improving stormwater management included: water quality concerns for the City's river, streams, and lakes; localized flooding resulting from increased development; and the need to comply with their federal stormwater (NPDES) permit.



Bioretention, Hammond Pond

How:

- The utility provides a source of funding for traditional stormwater and green infrastructure projects.
- The fee structure provides an incentive for property owners who mitigate the impacts to the municipal stormwater system by infiltrating stormwater on their property. Property owners can receive a credit of up to 25% for infiltrating roof, driveway and/or parking lot runoff.

The City of Newton has used its stormwater funding for green infrastructure projects including bioretention areas and sand filters to treat parking lot runoff, as well as support for water quality and sediment sampling. Their next project will include biofilters to treat stormwater entering Crystal Lake, which hosts Newton's swimming beach.



Benefits: Cities and towns in the Taunton River watershed that are subject to the new NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) requirements will be facing additional pressure to find resources for stormwater compliance. A stormwater utility provides new resources to address longstanding and future stormwater treatment needs. By investing in green infrastructure projects, towns can improve water quality, reduce flooding, and comply with NPDES permit requirements. The fee structure can be designed to fairly distribute costs according to stormwater contributions while potentially encouraging individual property owners to implement green infrastructure projects.



One of five bioretention areas at Hammond Pond