

## WHAT CAN I DO?

The MRGP only applies to municipal rights-of-way, defined as 24' 11" from the center line on either side. Though this does not include private roads or driveways, it does include public roads and driveways access to the public rights-of-way. 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.



water flows off drive = good crown



water stays on drive = bad crown

- **Upsize any driveway culverts** you maintain to a 15" minimum diameter where erosion is present.
- 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.



For more information about the Municipal Roads General Permit or other water quality planning initiatives, visit <http://www.nvda.net>.

## A Landowner's Quick Guide to the MUNICIPAL ROADS GENERAL PERMIT (MRGP)



Prepared by the  
Northeastern Vermont Development Association



# 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 road conditions 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 hydrologically-connected 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, and can be found in the ANR Atlas ([link](#)).



#### 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 using stormwater disconnection practices, rather than a concentrated flow which leads to erosion,
- **Increasing size of road culverts** where erosion is present (to 18-inches minimum in diameter) to reduce clogging,
- **Stabilizing ditches** either with stone (if steep) or vegetation (grass) to prevent soils from being eroded (diagram below),
- **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 shoulder berm of gravel** left on the road-side that prevents water from leaving the road.



Erosion likely - Unstable Ditch (no rock or grass)



Stone line to prevent erosion



Promote vegetation to stabilize

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 12/31/2036. Some roads are considered "very high priority" and need to be completed by 12/31/2025.