

City of Newton



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**ENGINEERING DIVISION**  
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Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

To: File  
DPW Engineering Division  
Department of Planning and Development  
From: Louis M. Taverna, P.E., City Engineer  
Date: May 15, 2019

**Subject: Policy for Stormwater Design and Drainage Management for Special Permits**

The Engineering Division reviews special permit applications on behalf of the Department of Planning and Development. Stormwater design and drainage management is an integral part of all special permit application reviews.

For existing sites which are currently substantially covered with impervious surfaces, for which re-development is proposed under a special permit, it has been, and still is, the policy of the Engineering Division that the entire site must be considered as “undeveloped” (i.e., pervious) for preconstruction conditions. That is to say: no “credit” toward the capacity of the stormwater management system will be given for any existing impervious area.

The stormwater runoff from the City’s 100-year design storm event (8.78-inches over a 24-hour period) from any proposed development must be collected and infiltrated and/or detained to the maximum extent practicable.

The stormwater management design shall include deep sump catch basins, drain manholes, underground infiltration, at-grade detention basins, vegetative swales, and/or other stormwater best management practices as outlined in the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, with overflows to the City’s drainage system, only as necessary.

The stormwater design report shall identify sub-catchment areas, control points, on-site soil evaluation\*, identifying soil types, existing groundwater and seasonal high groundwater elevations. The entire site shall be evaluated and analyzed for pre- and post-construction stormwater runoff so that there is no net increase in volume or rate of runoff from the site to any control point or property boundary. \*On-site soil evaluation and percolation test(s) must be performed by a registered soil evaluator within 25 feet of any infiltration system to determine: soil type (classification), seasonal high groundwater elevation, and any unsuitable soils. These results shall be submitted with a drainage study in digital and hard copies. Additionally, a detailed Operations and Maintenance Plan is required for the long-term maintenance of proposed system(s).

For sites over one-acre, the stormwater management plan shall also include a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General permit, Operations and Maintenance Plan and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Should construction-period dewatering be necessary for the project, the owner shall seek authority to discharge into the City’s municipal drainage system prior to any pumping.

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