

# 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) Program

Financial Assistance Available to Help 3-Acre Sites  
Obtain Required 'Three-Acre General Permit'

# Agenda

- What is Stormwater?
- Act 64 "Clean Water Act"
- Am I a 3-acre site?
- What is the POA program?
- Help spread the word
- Key Takeaways
- Resources

# What is Stormwater?

- **Cause:**
  - Precipitation runs off impervious surfaces
- **Impact:**
  - Nutrients including phosphorus, and sediment, metals, petroleum-based hydrocarbons, and related stormwater pollutants
  - Increased runoff volumes over undeveloped conditions
- **Result:**
  - Negatively impacts plants and animals
  - Ability to use waters for recreation and water supply

## Why Manage It?

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - Tailored to your site
- Maintain/restore the water quality in downstream waters



# Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64 of 2015) “All-in for Clean Water”

**Act 64:** ANR to update rule and develop general permit for

- Discharges of stormwater from existing impervious surface of 3+ acres in size
- Previously were unpermitted or permitted prior to 2002

## Stormwater Permitting Rule: “3-acre site” Requirements

- Rule and General Permit 3-9050, standards and timeline
- Owners of 3-acre sites, including multi-lot developments subject to prior permit, required to get new stormwater permit coverage no later than 2023
- Stormwater treatment practice construction required no later than 5 years from permit authorization, when new treatment is applicable



# How do I know I am a 3-acre site?

- Site with impervious surface of three or more acres that:
  - has never had an operational stormwater permit, or
  - was permitted to standards in place prior to the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual
- Communication from Watershed Management Division
  - Listed on the 3-acre list or otherwise notified
- Send all questions about regulations to DEC Stormwater Program



# What is the POA Program?

- **Challenge:** 3-acre site permit compliance requires the services of a professional engineer that can be costly
- **Program Overview:** Funding assistance for eligible 3-acre sites pursuing three-acre permit obtainment
- **Award Amounts:** Up to **\$49,999** split across two categories
  - Up to \$30,000 for engineering expenses
  - Up to \$19,999 for permit review fees
- **Timeline:**
  - Strongly encouraged to apply before September 30, 2024
  - Must obtain permit before August 2026



# Who Is Eligible For Funding?

**Eligible sites include:** all 3-acre sites located in the Lake Memphremagog, Lake Champlain, and stormwater impaired basins **except:**

- State and federally owned properties
- Manufactured Housing Communities (MHCs) utilizing other 3-acre site programming
- Public schools eligible to participate in the Green Schools Initiative
- Businesses that do not attest they are a "small business enterprise"
- 3-acre sites that have been integrated into a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit phosphorus reduction and/or flow restoration target.



# How to support our affected landowners and businesses

- Spread the word! Tell everyone about us!
  - Let your networks know 3-acre site funding is available for design work
- Current outreach efforts: email marketing, town clerks, engineers, press releases, SW mailers, etc.
- There are **~105** sites in Central Vermont but **only 20** have applied
- Reach out to us for info, resources, or additional informational sessions



# Key Takeaways

- ✓ Up to \$49,999/site in funding is now available for most 3-acre sites in the Lake Memphremagog, Lake Champlain, and stormwater impaired basins
- ✓ Funding is available for design and permitting costs for 3-acre sites pursuing three-acre permit authorization
- ✓ You must apply for funding before October 31, 2024 but applicants are strongly encouraged to apply before **September 30, 2024**
- ✓ Applicants **do not** need to have taken steps toward permit obtainment to apply for an award
- ✓ Begin/continue permit NOI process to ensure you are on track with funding timeline
- ✓ POA program staff are here to answer any questions and guide you through the process

# Resources + Contacts

- Visit the 3-Acre Funding Program Webpage: <https://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/arpa-vermont/treating-stormwater-runoff>
- More background on Stormwater General Permit 3-9050: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/9050>
- To access the 3-acre Permit Assistance Application: <https://anronline.vermont.gov/app/#/formversion/fdf9bc52-5ba3-48a7-9081-00c144e3c06d>
- For questions about funding assistance: please email [madeline.russell@vermont.gov](mailto:madeline.russell@vermont.gov)
- For questions about 3-acre regulations: Contact the [DEC Stormwater Program contact](#) for your area

**Thank you!**

