



## Medway gears up for stormwater runoff rules

By Whitney Clearman/Daily News staff

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MEDWAY — Preliminary work on cleaning up stormwater runoff as part of new federal regulations will cost the town \$500,000, said Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy.

The town has been in the first phase of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's national pollutant discharge elimination system to clean catch basins and determine if they are in working order, said Director of Public Services Tom Holder.

The town is embarking on phase two, using geographic information systems to locate and map all stormwater headwalls, he said.

There are currently about 77 stormwater basins, or headwalls, in Medway, he said. The basins carry water to natural water sources like brooks or streams that ultimately feed the Charles River.

Many communities in the state may face tougher regulations on stormwater runoff from roads, parks and other town-owned land.

"There's all these things that we currently do in the spirit of protecting our natural water bodies. This phase two will just enhance those criteria and hold towns to a higher standard," Holder said.

A big concern is cost of stormwater programs, Holder said. Consultants will most likely be needed, he said.

Kennedy said the town fully intends to proceed with new regulations "as judiciously as possible."

Data collection for stormwater mapping will be funded in part by a recently approved Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust Loan, she said. The town will implement recommendations proposed by the outcome of the study at the right times, Kennedy said.

The study and other immediate actions will cost up to \$500,000, she said.

At their last meeting, selectmen expressed concern over the new regulations, but said they realize the town will eventually need to address them. Over the past few years, Medway has purchased equipment needed for the new regulations in preparation for the new permit, Holder said.

"We're confident that the program we've established will provide us with the ability to meet these requirements," Holder said.

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