

# Pathways for Financing Stormwater Work in Massachusetts Municipalities

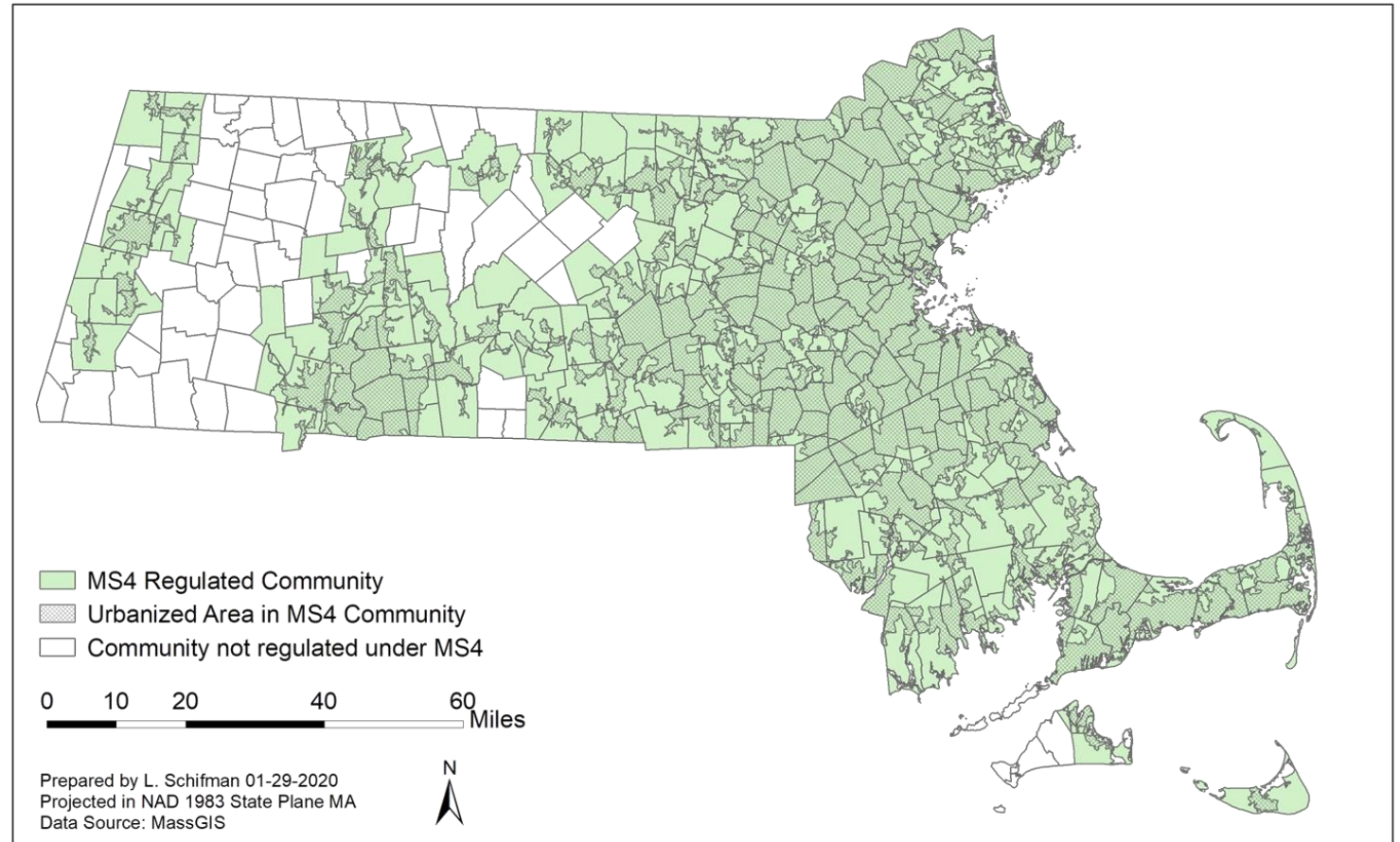
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Water Resources Commission



# Federal and state stormwater regulatory tools

- Not a NPDES delegated state
- Federal and State: MS4 Permit
  - More than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of communities regulated under 2016 Small MS4 Permit
- State: Wetlands Protection Act + Stormwater Standards



# MS4 requirements in Massachusetts

- 260 communities are in year three of 2016 Small MS4 Permit
  - Construction site stormwater management inspections
  - Bylaw/ordinance/other regulatory mechanisms for post-construction stormwater runoff management
- Overall, there are >100 requirements in the permit.



# Pathways to finance stormwater work

- Everyone is subject to the same MS4, but communities vary
  - Size of MS4 regulated area
  - Tax base
  - Population
  - Town staffing
- Water quality protection requires a lot of resources
- Resources for financing stormwater management
  1. Stormwater enterprise funds
  2. Stormwater coalitions



# Stormwater Enterprise Funds



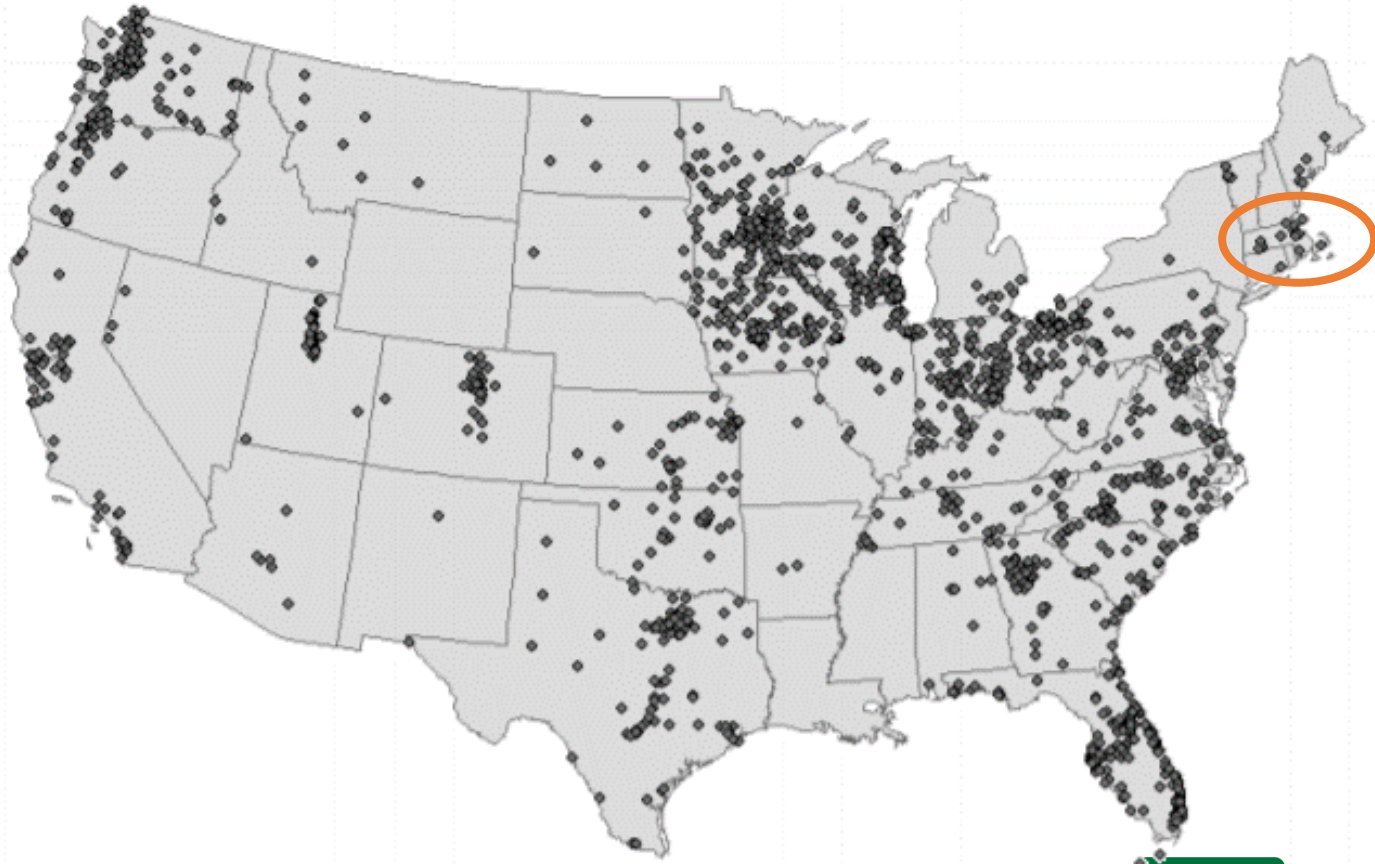
# What is a stormwater enterprise fund?

- Sometimes called a “Stormwater Utility”
- Town or city fund dedicated **only** to stormwater work
  - Do not have to rely on general fund for stormwater funds each year
- Quarterly charge to residential, commercial, industrial property owners
- Revenue can support staff, equipment, projects, etc.
- No community is too small or too large



# >1700 stormwater enterprise funds in North America

Stormwater Utilities 2019

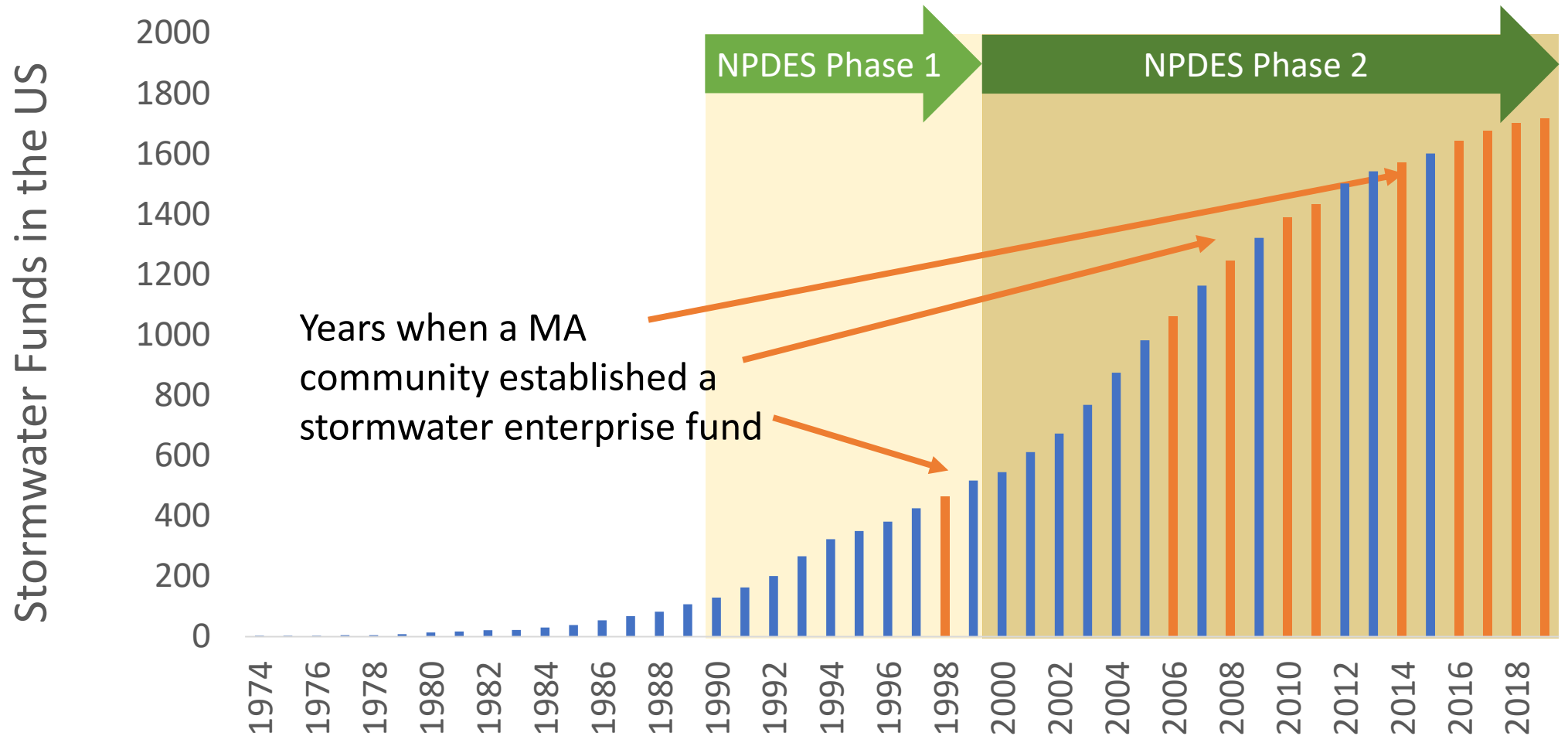


As of 2019, ~1717 stormwater utilities existed in the US and ~29 in Canada.

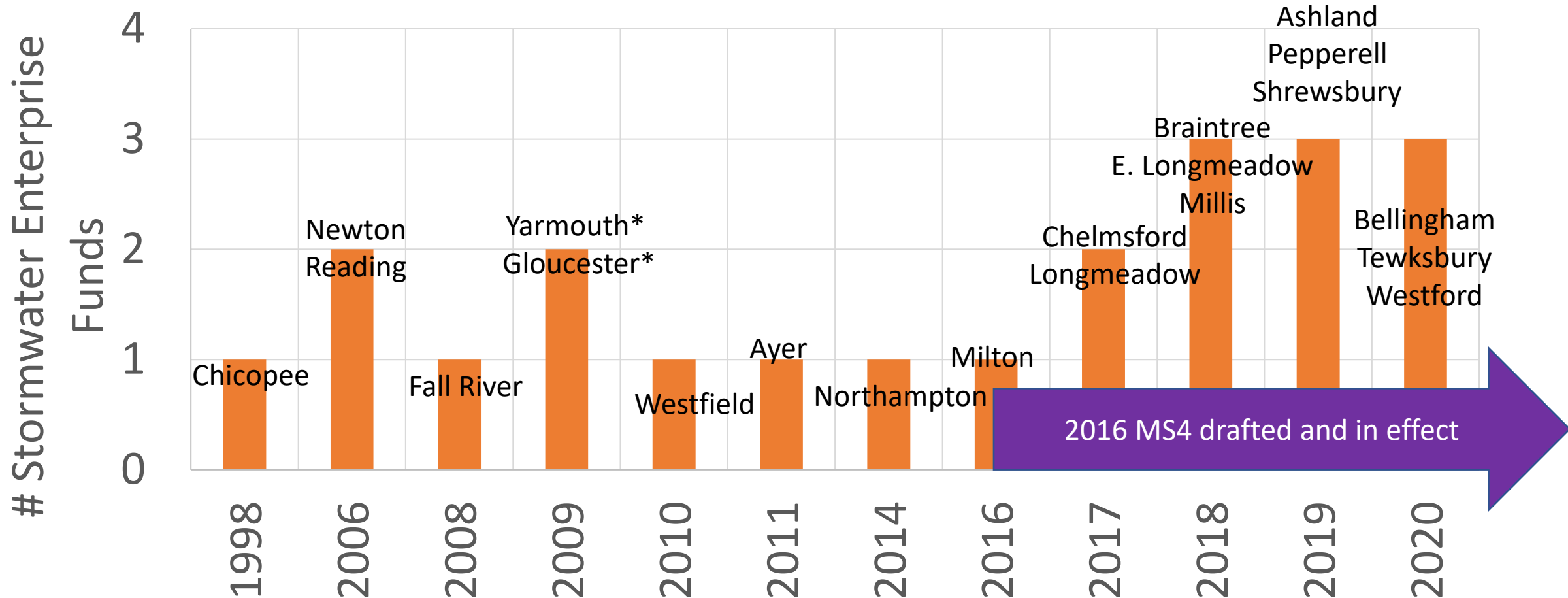
**21 Massachusetts communities have established utilities.**



# Stormwater utilities and NPDES Phasing



# 2016 MS4 doubled stormwater enterprise funds



\* Fund established, but no fee structure set.



# Structuring stormwater enterprise funds

- Quarterly charge is calculated in various ways
  - Flat fee
  - Residential equivalent unit (avg. impervious area of a residential parcel)
  - Tiered fee (impervious surface)
- Some exemptions, e.g. municipal, state, or federal land; open space

## Local Stormwater Permitting and Management

Cities and towns may have local stormwater and/or wetlands bylaws; contact your city or town for guidance.

Many communities in Massachusetts have established **Stormwater Enterprise Funds** to cover the annual expenditures that come with fulfilling the requirements of the MS4 permit. Since the 2016 MS4 permit has gone into effect the number of towns that have Stormwater Enterprise Funds has doubled. If your town is interested in establishing an enterprise fund for stormwater management, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council has prepared a Stormwater Financing Starter Kit. To see examples of existing rate structures for towns that have established stormwater enterprise funds, refer to the [Massachusetts Stormwater Fee Summary](#) sheet.

Local officials seeking guidance on developing stormwater controls are encouraged to visit the "[Think Blue Massachusetts](#)" website for information and resources.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stormwater#local-stormwater-permitting-and-management->

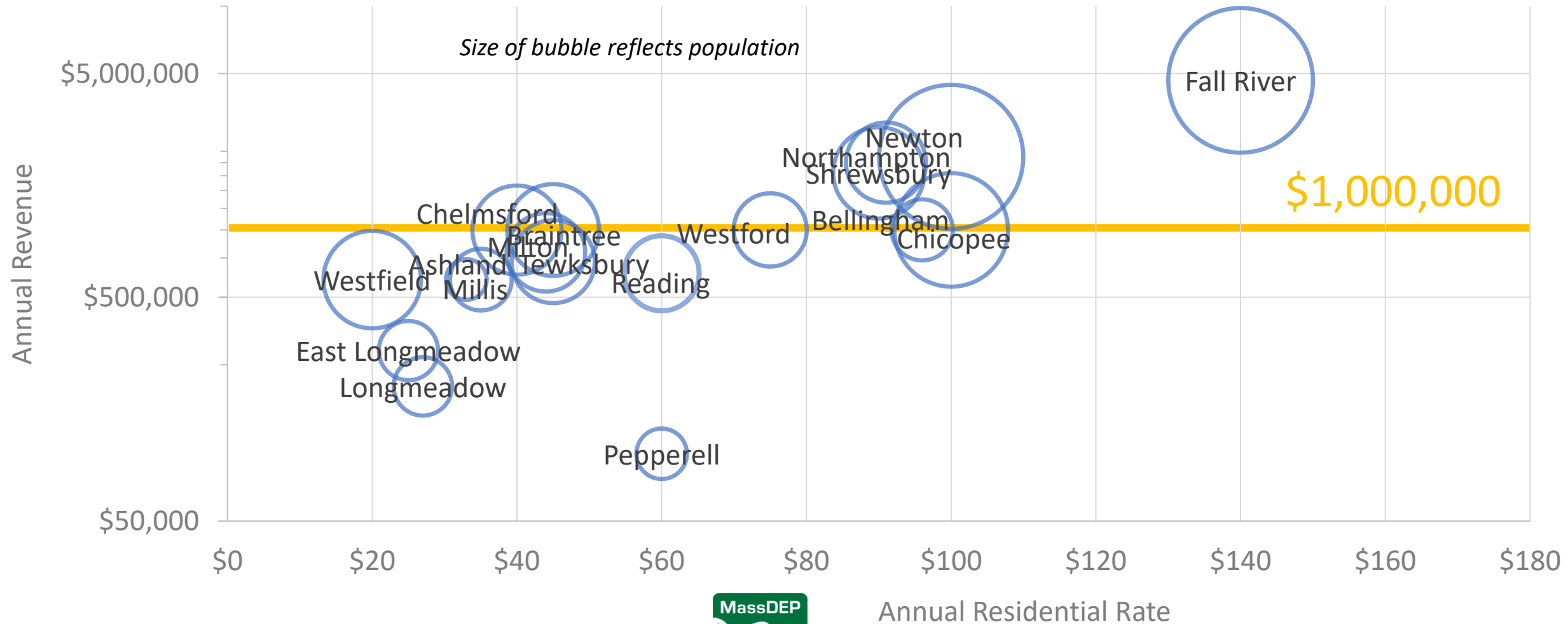


# Structuring stormwater enterprise funds

Flat Fee	Residential Equivalent Unit	Impervious Surface Area Tiers
Little upkeep/ requires no geospatial database	Requires database with somewhat regular upkeep	Requires continuously updated GIS database
Equitable runoff accounting	More accurately accounts for runoff	Most accurately accounts for runoff
Simplest administration	Moderate administration	Complex administration



# Annual revenues averages \$1,000,000



# Stormwater Coalitions



# My dirt is not always different from your dirt...

- Municipal boundaries  $\neq$  watershed boundaries
- Waterbodies and water infrastructure connect communities
- Most communities are subject to the MS4 Permit in MA

**There are many opportunities to collaborate**



# Cost sharing opportunities for municipalities

- Cities and towns can share costs on stormwater work
  - Don't typically share staff, but
  - Can share equipment, training sessions, education and outreach materials, templates
  - Can apply for grants together

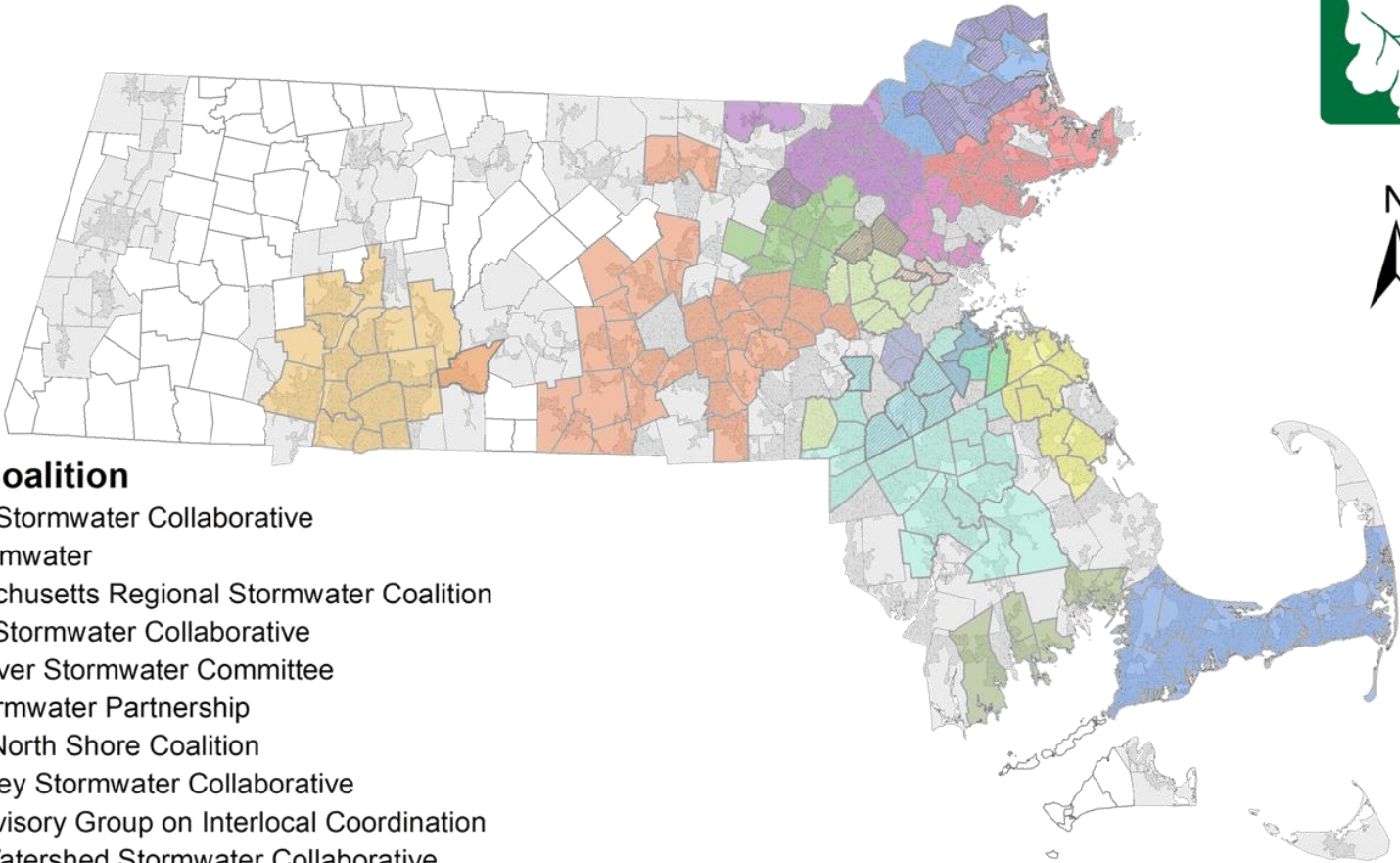


# History of stormwater coalitions

- Began forming in 2011
  - Driver was increasing MS4 requirements & cost
- Municipally driven
- Run by towns, watershed associations, planning associations
- Today, 14 stormwater coalitions exist
  - More than 170 communities are in a stormwater coalition



# Stormwater Coalitions in Massachusetts



## Stormwater Coalition

- Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative
- Cape Cod Stormwater
- Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition
- Charles River Stormwater Collaborative
- Connecticut River Stormwater Committee
- Fore River Stormwater Partnership
- Greenscapes North Shore Coalition
- Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative
- Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination
- Mystic River Watershed Stormwater Collaborative
- Neponset Stormwater Partnership
- Northern Middlesex Stormwater Collaborative
- Southeastern Regional Stormwater Coalition
- WaterSmart South Shore

- MS4 Regulated Community
- Urbanized Area in MS4 Community
- Community not Regulated under MS4

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On: January 29, 2020



# MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Highlights

\$300,000 of capital funds annually go to groups of municipalities to meet with MS4 requirements

- “Think Blue Massachusetts”
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination training
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans
- Model bylaw/ordinance
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination utility trailer
- Identifying locations for Stormwater Control Measures



# Statewide Stormwater Coalition

- Email listserve
  - Easy communication between communities
    - Knowledge exchange, questions, etc.
- Quarterly meetings
  - Disseminate information, training sessions, regulatory updates
- Think Blue Massachusetts public education
  - Statewide public education campaign on stormwater
  - The Ducky Video in Spanish is coming soon to you!



Learn more at <https://www.thinkbluemassachusetts.org/>



# Thank you!

## Questions?

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