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Scituate set to begin storm water project

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SCITUATE -- The town has initiated an effort to improve the quality of storm water along several of its major roadways.

The Conservation Commission and the Department of Public Works are teaming up to design and implement the project.

Officials say the town has much at stake in carrying out the work because of its abundance of streams, rivers, coastal estuaries, and beaches, and its three primary drinking water supply ponds, all of which can be adversely affected by storm water-borne pollution.

The commission has been awarded a joint state and federal grant of \$148,778 for the project, which will be undertaken over the next year. The DPW is contributing equipment and staff.

One feature of the project is the low-impact development techniques it will use. Those techniques are focused on keeping storm water on site so that it can be filtered back into the ground and underlying aquifer, thus retaining the area's natural hydrology. Plans call for a rain garden adjacent to the town's water-treatment facility, stream bank stabilization along the Herring River, two rain gardens and an infiltration device along Country Way, and several leaching catch basins along the Driftway.

The grant will also support the town's continuing involvement in a program run by the North and South Rivers Watershed Association that encourages landscaping and gardening practices that preserve water and keep it clean.

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