

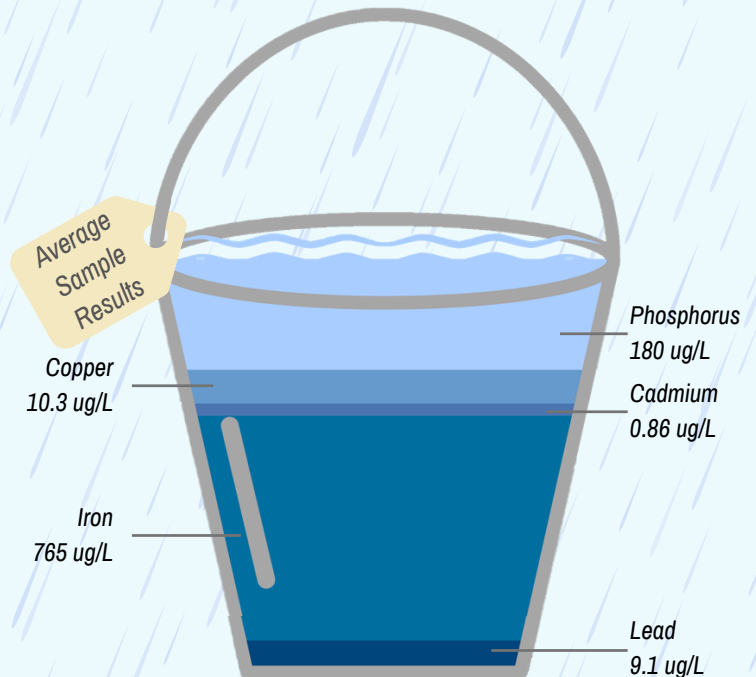
# SOURCE PROTECTION Stormwater

Stormwater exists throughout the Quinte Source Protection Area as water from rain or melted snow which flows from rooftops, paved streets, sidewalks, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. This runoff collects and transports contaminants directly into nearby creeks, rivers, and lakes without being treated. Over time, untreated stormwater can kill or damage plants and wildlife, and degrade drinking water quality.

## Runoff Contaminants



Stormwater sampling around the Bay of Quinte shows significant concentrations of contaminants



The Source Protection Authority sets policies to protect drinking water sources from potential threats, including from stormwater. The provincial government refers to these policies when reviewing stormwater management design as part of the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) process.

A stormwater facility is classified as a

**SIGNIFICANT** **MODERATE** or **LOW**

threat based on factors like the size and land use of the drainage area, percentage of impervious surfaces, and whether the practice relies on infiltration or releases runoff to surface waters for treatment.

**IF:** An *existing* facility is classified as a drinking water threat

The MECP reviews conditions of the current Environmental Compliance Approval and ensures it complies with policies in the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan. If necessary, the approval is amended to include conditions to manage the drinking water threat.

There are **25+** Outfalls in our Intake Protection Zones

**IF:** A *proposed* facility is classified as a drinking water threat

The MECP reviews the application and includes conditions in the Environmental Compliance Approval to ensure it complies with policies in the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan and the drinking water threat is being properly managed.

As policies and practices evolve, there are an increasing number of considerations that key players need to address. The following tips are a selection meant to ease potential friction in the approvals process, to identify actions that can reduce costs of stormwater management while keeping a high standard of protection, and to suggest proactive ways that stakeholders can address or avoid future issues with protecting source water from stormwater threats.

## TIPS FOR MUNICIPAL STAFF

1. Consult your local source protection plan and consider integrating the conditions of stormwater management policies into municipal guidelines as they are updated.
2. Ensure that qualified staff complete a detailed review of the facility prior to assuming ownership. This review should ensure that the facility is properly constructed, matching the design and function outlined in the ECA, and that any deficiencies are corrected.
3. As part of this process, staff should require:
  - As-built drawings. These should be added to a permanent file which includes the original design and other important documentation.
  - A maintenance plan for the facility, including consideration of major maintenance such as cleanout.
  - That the pond be cleaned out or not contain a significant amount of sediment accumulation.
4. Create a sampling schedule and plan for any facilities with monitoring as a condition of the ECA, adding new facilities to the schedule as they are assumed.

## TIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPONENTS AND THEIR CONSULTANTS

1. Visit your local source protection or conservation authority website to see whether your project maybe in a source water vulnerable area, and to consult the policies in the source protection plan that may result in additional conditions during the ECA approvals process. Proactively addressing these conditions ahead of an application can help streamline the process.
2. Ensure the project complies with municipal standards and the guidelines of the local conservation authority.
3. Ensure that the stormwater management report for your project identifies the breakdown of pervious and impervious surface areas, and what portion of impervious area is comprised of rooftops.
4. Plan for the eventual stormwater needs of a multiphase development up front and avoid the risk of a future phase being classified as a threat, resulting in additional costs.
5. Similarly, development proponents adjacent to other lands slated for development may consider the economic value of cooperating on a master drainage plan. This can address collective stormwater needs instead of implementing practices for a larger number of smaller developments. This can reduce costs for each proponent, as well as future costs for municipal operations.

Everyone is responsible for protecting our drinking water. Stormwater management facilities are a key measure in protecting fresh water sources from a variety of contaminants found on impervious surfaces across urban watersheds. The source protection authority assesses where these treatment practices may pose a threat to drinking water sources and recommends additional conditions to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to consider during the ECA review process for extra protection.

