



# PHOSPHORUS CONTROL PLANNING

**THE CHARLES RIVER IS IMPACTED BY ELEVATED LEVELS OF PHOSPHOROUS, WHICH CAUSES WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS.**



## What is phosphorous?

Phosphorous is a naturally occurring nutrient and, when in excess, is considered a pollutant in the environment.

## Where do excessive levels of Phosphorous come from?

High levels of Phosphorous can come from excessive or improper use of fertilizers, deteriorating leaves and yard waste, improper disposal of pet waste, and illicit connections where sewage can enter the drainage systems.

## How does Phosphorous travel to our waterways?

Phosphorous is captured by stormwater runoff that then enters the City's storm drains from streets, roofs, and parking lots before discharging to the Charles River.

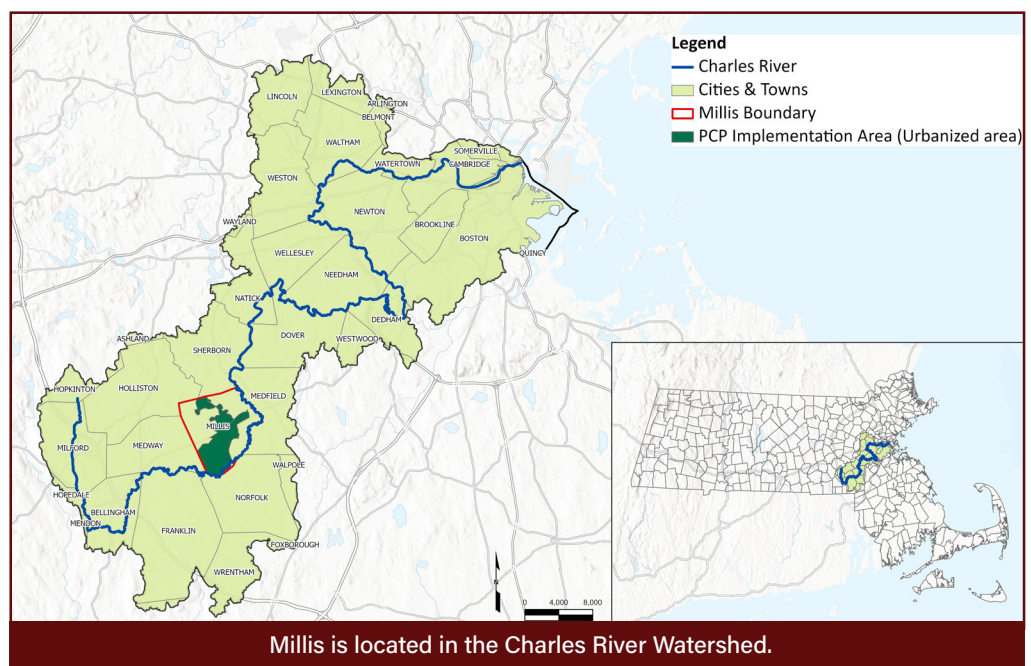
## Why is Phosphorous bad for our waterways?

Too much Phosphorous can cause algae growth in our waterways. This can produce algae blooms that release toxins that harm public health upon contact, kill fish, and harm the marine ecosystem.

## What is the Town doing to lower the levels of Phosphorous?

To improve water quality, the Environmental Protection Agency requires all communities in the Charles River Watershed to reduce their Phosphorus discharge to the Charles River. In this first phase, Millis must reduce its Phosphorus loading by 42.5 pounds per year by 2028.

- The Town is meeting 45% of the Phase 1 reduction target by implementing regular street sweeping and catch basin cleaning schedule.
- The Town has performed a cost evaluation and is planning to spend \$65k per year to maintain the Phase 1 target reduction.
- The Town is planning to create an inventory for the existing structural Best Management Practices (e.g., infiltration trenches, detention basins, dry and wet ponds, etc.) to reach the full target reduction by 2028.



Millis is located in the Charles River Watershed.

**For more information, visit:**  
[millisma.gov/stormwater-management](http://millisma.gov/stormwater-management)