

# Stormwater System

## Condition of current infrastructure

There are frequent incidents of overflow, seepage, wet basements, street flooding, and soil erosion that are caused by failures of the current Belfast stormwater and drainage system. Forecasts indicate that we can expect more - and more extreme - cycles of precipitation and drought as climate change progresses.

## Accomplishments/Work underway

Belfast City Council has discussed a plan to address Belfast's downtown stormwater management system (east of the bypass). Olver Associates submitted a scope of work to the City Manager on September 14, 2022 called "Stormwater Drainage System Review and Analysis." The plan was approved by City Council on September 20, 2022, and will be partially funded using Federal money.

## Future Actions - *what appears here is for consideration*

Actions individuals can take

- Place rain barrels under roof runoff
- Plant trees
- Plant rain gardens
- Keep drains clear
- *Your ideas here!*

## 1-2 years - What can we manage with no big budget change, etc.; creative solutions born of Yankee ingenuity!

- Raise funding to help people without disposable income purchase and site rain barrels, trees, gardens, sump pumps, etc.
- Encourage the planting of trees and 'rain gardens' with varieties that can absorb excess rain on both public and private land.
- Determine need to increase the capacity of the future and existing system, (drain pipes and culverts), to accommodate projected increased peak storm rainfall intensity and durations.
- Review the design and capacity of city owned drainage ditches and culverts that redirect rainwater runoff in areas outside of the stormwater drain system, and make the appropriate upgrades.
- *Your ideas here!*

(Over)

### **3+ years - Projects that will need time to design and will require grant funds or tax increases**

- Seek out State and Federal grants and funding to support resiliency related to stormwater .
- Consider stormwater as a source of freshwater and increase use of appropriately sized rain barrels (individuals), cisterns (farms and individuals), and retention ponds (developments, municipality) to store overflow as freshwater reserves. These reserves can become drought reduction tools or habitat.
- *Your ideas here!*