
“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Water Department Odds & Ends

Don't cover that curbstop! - Every home or commercial building connected to the Town's water system has a curbstop, which is a master shutoff valve, associated with it. These curbstops, show up in the street, your front lawn, or your driveway, as a 3-4" diameter metal plate secured with a single brass bolt that allows us quick access to shut off your water in the event of maintenance or an emergency. It is imperative that these curbstops remain accessible. So, if you are paving your driveway or installing landscaping in your yard; don't cover that curbstop! For more information about curbstops pick up a copy of the NK Groundwater Committee produced curbstop brochure at the Municipal Office Building or your local library.

Help us protect the town's water quality from illegal hydrant hookups - Fire Hydrants are an essential component of our water distribution system and critical in the event of a fire in your neighborhood. If misused though, they can become a contamination portal that can put all of our health at risk. Landscaping and hydroseeding trucks, contractors and pool fillers, are not allowed under any circumstances to connect to the Town's hydrants. If you see anyone other than fire department, water departments, or North Kingstown Public Works personnel attempting to access a fire hydrant, call the Water Department at 268-1521 or, after hours, the North Kingstown Police Department at 294-3311

Some Important Reminders from the Town of North Kingstown

Don't forget to apply for the NEW HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION which is available to owner occupied 1-5 family dwellings. If you are the legal owner as of 12/31/21 and this is your primary residence, you qualify. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2022 for the 2022 tax roll. Information, Applications and Proof of residency documents required can be found on the Assessor page of the town website:

<https://www.northkingstown.org/851/HOMESTEAD-APPLICATION>

Is your property in the Special Flood Hazard Area? Do you need flood insurance? What are the rules for building in the floodplain? If you would like to know the answers to these questions or want to learn more about any of these topics, the Town of North Kingstown has information available that may help. Check our website at <http://northkingstown.org/212/Flooding-Flood-Insurance-Information>. You'll find information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), review evacuation route mapping as well as the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and find out about flood preparedness and protection. The web page includes helpful links to other state and federal resources as well. The town also has copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on all buildings constructed or substantially improved in the floodplain since 1995. The North Kingstown Free Library also has a repository of flood-related information available. You can call the Planning Department with any floodplain questions at 268-1571.

Sign up for WaterSmart!

NK Water is really excited to debut our new WaterSmart interactive program. Here you will be able to access your account, check your water use, pay your bills, view innovative watersaving videos, sign up for alerts, perform your own water audit and take a customized water survey that will help you and your family save money and our precious drinking water resource. Call us at 268-1521 for help signing up.

Is Your Yard A Sponge?

March 2022

April Showers bring...



The amount of rain that flows off an average roof, over the course of a year in Rhode Island, would fill more than 500 bathtubs!

All that **stormwater** running down the street when it rains may be as familiar as the old saying "April showers bring May flowers", but it sure isn't natural. Here are a few local facts to put things into perspective:

- ◆ North Kingstown receives about **42 inches** of rain each year. Plants and evaporation may use up to 40 percent, leaving about **25 inches**. In natural areas, much of this seeps into the ground.
- ◆ Roofs, driveways, roads and other impervious surfaces cover **15%** of North Kingstown. Rainwater falling on these impervious areas often flows directly to stormdrains and other waters instead of recharging groundwater.
- ◆ **25 inches** of rain falling on the impervious surfaces in North Kingstown's aquifers can generate more than 1.3 billion gallons of stormwater each year, an average of 3,580,000 gallons per day. This is more than the 3 million gallons pumped daily by all the town wells combined!
- ◆ Diverting only **one inch** of rainfall from the aquifer's impervious surfaces and allowing it to seep into the ground could save **52 million gallons** in one storm. This is enough water to meet indoor water needs for more than 860 families.

Divert and Collect

There are two ways to deal with all the water that runs off, beginning with your own roof: you can collect some of it using rain barrels, and you can divert some of it onto landscaped areas, rather than onto pavement.

- Roof runoff can be captured in a **rain barrel** and used later for irrigation, which not only reduces stormwater but also conserves water. In fact, a rain barrel can save 1300 gallons of water during the summer season.
- If the runoff from your roof flows directly onto pavement, consider using downspout extenders to **direct the water onto a landscaped area** instead. Just keep the outflow at least 4 feet from the foundation.
- Runoff can be directed to a **rain garden**, which is a natural or dug shallow depression designed to soak up water. Rain gardens are created with highly absorbent soil and the proper mix of shrubs and plants to temporarily hold water and infiltrate it back into the ground. For more information about rain gardens, visit: www.savebay.org/backyards

