

Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP)

What's New (and Due) for 2019



Here's some upcoming important Vermont Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) related schedules and permit requirements, training opportunities, and resources available to towns in 2019.

First MRGP Annual Planning Report due April 1, 2019

Towns are required to fill out and submit a one-page MRGP Annual Planning Report before April 1, 2019. Towns will be receiving an email from DEC in the coming weeks with a link to the electronic Annual Planning Report. It can also be found here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>

MRGP Fees due before June 1, 2019

Regarding fees, towns were previously required to pay a \$240 administrative processing fee with the permit application. A \$400 permit review fee and an annual fee of \$500, \$1,350 or \$1,800 based on population and road miles, is due before June 1, 2019. In the future, towns will only have to pay annual fees by June 1st each year and pay the administrative processing fee when submitting the REI by December 31, 2020. A link to prorated MRGP annual fees can be found here:

https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/sw_MRGP_ProratedAnnualOperatingFees.pdf

REIs and Implementation Tables- due before December 31, 2020

Towns are required to complete and submit Road Erosion Inventories (REIs) using DEC's template before December 31, 2020. REIs are conducted to determine which road segments meet or do not meet MRGP standards. The REIs serve as a basis to determine which roads will be required to be upgraded to meet MRGP standards. Implementation work will be required starting in 2021. REIs will serve as the basis for implementation work.

Last spring, DEC and the Vermont Agency of Digital Services have made available a REI app, developed to assist towns, and those working on behalf of towns, in completing required REIs via downloading the free app to their cell phones, computers or tablets. DEC and VTrans offered a series of trainings last spring to regional planning commission and natural resource conservation district staff, town officials and consultants on how to use the new app. DEC will be offering similar trainings this later this spring. Trainings will be available to any towns, and those working on behalf of towns, that have received grant funding to conduct REIs in the 2019 field season. When the DEC app is used, the information collected during the REI is automatically sent to the MRGP database/portal. Towns can immediately see the REI data and related maps on the Implementation link:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/MRGPReportViewer.aspx?ViewParms=True&Report=Portal>

New Vermont Road and Bridge Standards Coming

DEC and VTrans have been working collaboratively to update the Vermont Road & Bridge Standards to be more consistent with the MRGP standards and also give towns more flexibility as to which Road & Bridge standards they would like to voluntarily adopt. The new standards will offer an "a la carte" menu-like approach in which towns can choose exactly which Road & Bridge standards that best fit the town's approach to managing their roads. The Roads Round Tables will give an overview of these changes (see back).

Upcoming Trainings- Spring 2019:

DEC and the VTrans Better Roads and Local Roads programs will be offering a series of Road Round Table Forums starting in April 2019. This is our fourth year of Round Table Forums providing town officials, road foremen and road crew members a forum and crash course and discussion of MRGP standards, timelines, road practice installation, and grant funding. Topics include: road crowning and grading, road surface materials, culvert sizing and installation, road equipment use, VTrans Better Roads and DEC Municipal Grant in Aid funding opportunities. Over 300 people have attended these trainings over the last 3 years. See the Local Roads website for training locations and dates: <https://localroads.vermont.gov/>



DEC Municipal Grant in Aid- Spring 2019:

DEC will again be offering our Municipal Grant in Aid program. Letters will be going out to towns during the spring of 2019. The letters will ask towns to sign Letters of Intent if they are interested in receiving grant funding to help them bring their connected roads up to MRGP standards. DEC is working closely with local regional planning commissions to greatly reduce grant administration and reporting for towns. For more information about DEC's Municipal Grant in Aid funding:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/grants/ecosystem-restoration>

Important Due Dates:

- ✓ June 31, 2018 - Application and \$240 administrative processing fee
- April 1, 2019 - 1st Annual Report
- June 1, 2019 - \$400 permit review fee (if not previously submitted)
- \$500, \$1350, or \$1800 Annual Fee based on population and road miles
- April 1 every year - Annual Report
- June 1 every year - Annual Fee based on pop. & road miles
- Dec 31, 2020 - Road Erosion Inventory (REI)
- \$240 administrative processing fee

For more information about the MRGP, head to our MRGP website:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>

Or contact Jim Ryan, DEC's Municipal Roads Program Coordinator at

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