

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) Permit Review Wish List

SoRLAC will look for the following topics on all permit requests and comment accordingly. If any permit applications have reasons not to follow the suggestions, they should explain on the application.

1. Stream Crossings: SoRLAC recommends that stream crossings, culverts, and bridges incorporate open-bottom bridge and culvert structures whenever possible with appropriate channel alignment to facilitate aquatic organism passage and conveyance of other wildlife species throughout the system.

2. Outdoor Lighting: whenever buildings, bridges, parking lots, or other structures are proposed for construction within sight of the river, and outdoor lighting fixtures are proposed, SoRLAC requests

a. Any lighting fixtures affixed to the exterior of buildings should be designed with down-shaded light shields to minimize disturbances to wildlife within the river corridor. Excessive lighting at night interrupts nocturnal life cycles of many organisms and leads to mortality in many cases.

b. Any parking lot fixtures should incorporate down-shaded, hoods to minimize impacts to the river and associated species in the corridor.

c. Any bridges being rehabilitated or replaced over the river should eliminate outdoor lighting all together.

3. Parking Lot Islands: SoRLAC discourages the construction of traditional, closedcurb, parking lot islands and urges, curb-cut, inverted, parking lot islands that allow for infiltration of stormwater. These bioinfiltration islands support a mix of trees and shrubs that mature over time and provide critical shading to reduce temperatures of stormwater runoff and the harmful effects of thermal pollution to receiving waters.

4. Dump No Waste Markers: SoRLAC recommends that all catch basins be marked with metal tags that remind the public that catch basins are not connected to wastewater treatment facilities. Metal, catch basin, tags should be installed with messaging like "Dump No Waste – Drains to River".

5. Snow, Salt, and Sand Storage Areas: The storage of snow and ice-managing materials onsite should be noted on all plans with notes about how the sand and salt are contained and covered to eliminate runoff. The storage areas for snow should be depicted on plans away from wetlands and preferably not located on or in stormwater BMPs that are not designed to accommodate snow loads.

6. New Hampshire Certified Green SnowPro Program: when reviewing plans for commercial properties or sub-divisions that will require snow and ice management by contractors, SoRLAC encourages owners/managers to consider only hiring Green SnowPro certified contractors. If owners have long-standing relationships with their snow and ice management contractor, SoRLAC recommends that the owner urge the contractor to become certified, as he will benefit from limited liability protection granted through the certification and save resources and money in the short and long term. More information at: <http://t2.unh.edu/green-snowpro-certification>

7. Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control Products: SoRLAC recommends the use of wildlife-friendly, erosion control products that eliminate mortality among reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that often get strangled or smothered in traditional, plasticbased, non-biodegradable, non-natural material, erosion control blankets or similar products. New Hampshire Fish and Game requires use of these products at all their public access construction sites, and SoRLAC urges the same for all construction projects within the corridor. More information at:
<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf>

8. Seed Mix and Wetland Plantings: During review of permits that involve seed mix and/or wetland seed mixes for slope stabilization and/or mitigation on-site, SoRLAC urges the use of New England Seed Mix and New England wetlands species or their equivalent to reduce the spread of invasive species and to increase viability of what is planted.

9. Trees and Shrubs Instead of Managed Turf: whenever managed turf areas are the recommended finished, site condition, SoRLAC encourages consideration of more natural areas with mixtures of shrubs, trees, and less maintenance intensive landscaping practices. Managed turf requires mowing, watering, and far more resources than shrubs and trees. Trees mature and provide habitat and shaded areas that reduce temperatures of runoff and make for a more comfortable and desirable employee/customer destination on the property for taking breaks or having outdoor lunches etc.

10. Gravel Wetlands: Many site development plans incorporate detention or retention basins to store and treat stormwater. When those systems store water for extended periods of time, the resulting pool of water heats up, loses oxygen, and leads to thermal pollution and other negative impacts to receiving surface waters and the biological communities within them. SoRLAC urges the incorporation of gravel wetlands as a preferred best management practice that infiltrates stormwater rather than storing it and releasing it over time. Gravel wetlands reduce stormwater runoff temperatures and the infiltration through the wetland media removes nutrients and other pollutants before the stormwater reaches rivers, lakes, wetlands, and ponds. The UNH Stormwater Center has reference materials for gravel wetlands on their website.