



Milton, New Hampshire

A local ordinance provides a gateway to flood-resilient stormwater infrastructure

Lesson Learned:

- Infrastructure repairs move faster when there is clear documentation, such as design guidelines and regulations.

What they did, and why:

When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides emergency assistance to replace damaged stormwater infrastructure after a flood, they are not required to upsize destroyed culverts to build resilience against future storms.

The Town of Milton, New Hampshire has included a clause in its Design and Construction Standards requiring that culverts be upsized to account for 50-year return frequency storm events. Because of this ordinance, when the Town of Milton received assistance from FEMA following floods in 2006 and 2007, they were able to increase the size of damaged culverts during repairs.

FEMA encourages strict design codes and standards to encourage flood resiliency in stormwater infrastructure, and has said they would consider local regulations during emergency culvert replacement.



Benefits:

These stricter standards provide a clear pathway to increased flood resiliency in Milton's stormwater infrastructure. By upsizing a culvert after the first incident of flood-related damage, the town saves money that would otherwise be spent replacing the same culvert over and over after every storm. The Milton Planning Board has said that the regulation is a great insurance policy, and will be retained in future local standards.

View Milton's Local Ordinance here (page 34, Article IV Section 5.A.2):
http://www.miltonnh-us.com/sites/miltonnh/files/uploads/subdivision_regulations.pdf

For more information:

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"It's a great thing that the town has that ordinance"

*- Richard Verville,
FEMA*

"[It's] a great insurance policy... the Board will be retaining it in their new regulations."

*- Bruce Woodruff,
Milton Town
Planner*