

Zero-Discharge Washwater Management System

With a landscape-based wastewater system, a fire department complies with washdown water discharge laws

Harwich Fire Department – Harwich, Massachusetts

Project Background

The Harwich Fire Department required an alternative solution to managing washwater from its vehicle maintenance operations and was faced with the potential requirement of installing a holding tank with frequent pumping at a cost of approximately \$1.50 per gallon.

The Town of Harwich retained the services of the Ecological Engineering Group, Inc. (EEG) to design and construct a lined washwater recirculating and evapotranspiring garden with intermittent storage in a holding tank, from which washwater is recirculated. The system has been in successful operation since 1995.

Project Benefits

The Recirculating Washwater Garden™ system has provided the Harwich Fire Department with a long-term environmentally sound and cost-effective solution to its wastewater needs.

Maintenance of the system requires basic plant pruning and gardening tasks, as well as periodic examination and repair of system components.

Unique Features

- Zero-discharge system provides excellent protection of public health and environment.
- Garden provides aesthetic value.
- Uptake of washwater runoff minimizes or eliminates costs associated with pumping, hauling, and disposal.



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