CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Department of Utilities

Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Management

Errata and Credit Notes

October 28, 2026 | Applies to the Guide posted January 2026

References use the Guide's printed pages. Add three for the January 2026 PDF viewer page.

> **About this sheet.** The Guide is educational and does not establish requirements or credit eligibility. These notes explain corrections and the proposed PD-11 credits. No stormwater fee or credit is in effect. The ordinance and final program documents will govern.

Corrections and Credit Notes

Guide page	Topic	Correction or credit note
10, 13	Practice list	The Guide has no fact sheets for paved surface disconnection or vegetated swales. The draft provides no separate paved surface disconnection credit. An engineered swale may qualify for water quality credit if it meets that category's criteria; the practice name alone does not establish eligibility.
11	How much is enough	The 2 inch sizing goal is educational. Proposed Chapter 13.11 also covers reconstruction, drainage changes, and cumulative work; more than 200 sq ft of new surface is not the only permit trigger. Confirm requirements with Utilities. Draft retention credit starts at 1.0 inch. An otherwise eligible voluntary practice retaining a documented 2.0 inches can earn the full retention element on its served area. Deduct required performance under Manual Section 5.9. Guide sizing alone does not establish eligibility.
15	Worksheet	The Guide's worksheet sizes new impervious cover. Manual Section 6.4 is a separate proposed credit worksheet; it does not replace permit sizing or a permit application.
15	Perc test	The Guide's 1 ft test hole is screening only. Follow the final approved protocol (Manual Section 6.3; C-6). Verify installed dimensions, connected storage, outlets, and water levels. Fill water alone proves neither storage capacity nor infiltration. Proposed drawdown limits are 24 hours for permeable pavement and 48 hours for other infiltration practices, or a stricter applicable limit. The protocol will address rainfall, other inflows, safe filling, and starting soil moisture.
16	Downspout disconnection	Roof area ÷ 4 equals 3 inches of runoff, not the credit allowance. The draft proposes 10% on the roof area served: no more than 1,000 sq ft per outlet; flow length at least roof area ÷ 13.3; receiving area at least twice the roof area; slope no more than 5%; 10 ft from foundations and pavement; and safe overflow for larger storms. All Manual Section 5.3 criteria apply.

Guide page	Topic	Correction or credit note
18 to 24	Trenches and dry wells	Count stone below the lowest outlet: length × width × stone depth (ft) × 0.4. Exclude soil cover. A dry well taken out of service in winter earns no retention credit. On page 23, a 3 × 3 × 3 ft excavation with 6 inches of soil cover has 2.5 ft of stone: 9.0 cu ft, enough for 2 inches from 54 sq ft. A full 3 ft of stone holds 10.8 cu ft, enough for 2 inches from 64.8 sq ft. The Guide's 72 sq ft overstates both.
28	Pervious pavers	Count only crushed stone storage below the lowest outlet that empties by infiltration within 24 hours, serving only rain falling on the pavers (State rule § 8.22). Do not apply 0.4 to total excavation depth, including pavers and bedding. Pavers remain measured as hard surface.
30 to 32	Rain barrels	The proposed participation credit requires at least 100 gallons, screened, with overflow to lawn or planted area, in service April through November. Claimed barrel volume cannot also earn retention credit. Disconnection credit is an alternative only if roof runoff reaches a qualifying receiving area year round; compare both parcel credits and take the higher.
33 to 34	Rain gardens	Count effective ponding only. Table 1 provides about 2 inches only with 6 inches of ponding: 333 sq ft at 6 inches stores 166.5 cu ft, or 1.998 inches from 1,000 sq ft. Confirm geometry and the lowest overflow; do not round the depth up.
34	Overflow	The Guide does not authorize directing a new or concentrated overflow to a street, storm drain, or neighboring property. Confirm the safe overflow route, and any approval, with Utilities before construction.
Not in Guide	Gravel driveways	Vehicle driveways and parking remain measured as hard surface. The draft proposes 10% on the parcel's combined unbound surface area, capped at 1,000 sq ft per parcel. This is proposed, not an available credit. Landscape gravel and gravel walkways not used by vehicles are excluded from measurement under the proposed definition.

Comments on the draft are welcome through November 30, 2026, at ratestudy@NewportRI.gov. Questions about stormwater practices: Department of Utilities, 401-845-5600.