



**City of Peabody**  
**Department of Community Development and Planning**

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## **NOTICE**

### **To Residents along Strongwater Brook and Parents of William A. Welch Sr. Elementary School:**

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#### **Dear Residents & Parents:**

Mayor Michael J. Bonfanti is pleased to announce that a construction project to improve stormwater management in the vicinity of the William A. Welch, Sr. Elementary School will be underway shortly. This project includes four small site improvement projects including updates to landscaping and repaving of the main parking lot. In addition to improving the school ground's aesthetics, these features will serve important site drainage functions. The construction will begin in early June and is anticipated to be substantially complete prior to the start of the following school year. This project is being funded through the MORE Jobs state grant program issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Peabody has contracted with the Bioengineering Group to develop and implement a plan to improve stormwater management in the vicinity of the William A Welch, Sr. Elementary School. Stormwater retrofits will be installed at four locations, each specifically designed to improve and enhance site drainage through runoff interception and treatment by utilizing natural infiltration and plant bio-uptake processes. This approach to managing stormwater runoff is an alternative to traditional stormwater management techniques, which typically utilize hard structures (pipes, culverts, etc.) for intercepting, diverting, and conveying runoff to streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc. Such traditional techniques provide negligible temporary stormwater storage or treatment, so these innovative approaches will provide a net benefit to water quality and downstream flood mitigation. Several of the new site stormwater features will be vegetated with a palette of native plants specifically designed to encourage natural biodiversity, provide habitat, maximize bio-uptake of nutrients, improve site aesthetics, as well as provide opportunities for integration into the Welch School educational curriculum. The Welch School Stormwater Improvements project is the first of its kind in Peabody and provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of alternative, more sustainable approaches for controlling and treating stormwater runoff before it enters our City's waterways.

This project was designed in collaboration with Bioengineering Group of Salem, Massachusetts and Peabody Community Development & Planning Department staff. The project is being constructed by J. Tropeano, Inc. of North Andover, Massachusetts. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Brendan Callahan in the Peabody Office of Community Development and Planning at (978) 538-5780.

