

### **3. Where does the Park water conservation plan stand?**

In May of 2020, Waterfront Preservation received a permit signed by the Commissioner of the DEP to discharge 500,000 gallons of Children's Splashpad runoff water over the rip rap annually. The validity of the permit was clarified in a December 16, 2021 email from Bill Johnson of the DEP Overboard Discharge unit to Boothbay Harbor CEO Smith. Bill Johnson wrote:

*"The permit (Department Order) is a legal document duly issued by the DEP to allow a discharge of water from the splash pools. The water to be used is treated, chlorinated city water delivered by fountains, as I understand it. I haven't seen the application, so I don't know the design, but from what little I know, when the fountains come on, some excess water will flow through the discharge pipe to the rip rap. The Department considers the discharge a limited, low- or no-risk source of pollutants--a de minimus, amount/impact on the harbor--therefore the association's application was approved. It's not gray water in the sense that bath or sink water is."*

Despite DEP permission to discharge Children's Splashpad runoff over rip-rap, Waterfront Preservation is trying to gain permission to collect the runoff and treat it to repurpose for irrigation. The benefits would be:

- 1) Water conservation;
- 2) Dramatically less discharge into the harbor, if any;
- 3) Treated, instead of untreated, discharge into the harbor, if any.

An application for repurposing tanks has been pending before the DEP for more than a year. Waterfront Preservation remains hopeful that the Town of Boothbay Harbor and State regulatory authorities will work cooperatively and expeditiously with our water consultant to implement a water conservation plan for the Park.