

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Stormwater runoff in urban areas is a major source of pollution in creeks and rivers. Pollutants that accumulate on the multitude of parking lots, streets, and sidewalks are transported into nearby local bodies of water. Identifying municipal operations that may be a source of pollution and keeping this pollution away from our storm drains is one way to prevent stormwater pollution.



Why Is It Important To Municipalities?

Municipalities engage in a number of activities that may cause stormwater pollution e.g., materials management, buildings and grounds, fleet and equipment maintenance, parks and landscaping, etc. As such, many opportunities exist for preventing stormwater pollution. By changing daily operations that have the potential to contribute pollutants to stormwater, we can have a positive effect on water quality.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are methods, practices and procedures such as good house-keeping, spill prevention or treatment measures to prevent or reduce pollutant discharges to our storm sewers. There are two major categories:

- Structural BMP – such as a silt fence at a construction site or overhead covering at fuel pumps.
- Non-structural BMP– include written procedures or a sign posted prohibiting an activity i.e., “No Dumping,”

Some typical activities and BMPs related to municipal operations are:

Cleaning and Maintenance of Streets and Parking Facilities

- Perform cleaning/paving activities during dry weather.
- Cover and seal nearby storm drain inlets before maintenance repairs are made.
- Sweep parking lots or use other dry cleaning methods.
- Design parking lots to include semi-permeable areas.
- Post “No Littering “ signs on parking lots to encourage proper disposal.

Maintenance of Parks and Landscaping

- Mow grass higher and leave clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and provide nutrients.
- Ensure the proper disposal of yard waste by composting.
- Minimize the use of landscaping chemicals.
- Avoid fertilizer application before a rain.
- Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to the label.
- Use natural biological controls when feasible to control pests.
- Apply pesticides when the target pest is most vulnerable.
- Remove litter and debris regularly.

Storage of Materials and Supplies

- Store materials inside if possible.
- Cover materials to prevent stormwater contact if stored outside.
- Contain and clean up spills immediately using dry methods.
- Train employees on cleanup procedures.
- Dispose of spill cleanup material properly.
- Keep material safety data sheets on site and post emergency contact numbers for reporting spills.

Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

- Clean work areas to minimize the build-up of oil and grease.
- Provide a designated covered area for vehicle maintenance to limit the exposure to rain.
- Clean vehicle parts without using liquid cleansers wherever possible, to reduce waste.
- Monitor parked vehicles and equipment regularly for leaks.
- Use a catch pan or other container to capture leaking or dripping fluids.
- Dispose of waste materials according to applicable laws and regulations.
- Train employees in the proper handling and disposal of engine fluids and waste material.
- Post signs in work areas to remind employees not to pour hazardous waste down drains.



General Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention

- Maintain a site plumbing plan to identify sanitary and storm sewer connections.
- Verify wastewater is discharged to the sanitary sewer and storm water to the storm sewer.
- Label onsite storm drains to discourage improper disposal.
- Keep trash container lids closed to keep rain out.
- Develop a policy to purchase recycled products whenever practicable.
- Collect and recycle waste generated by municipal operations.
- Establish material management and inventory controls so materials are accounted for.
- Train employees who handle hazardous materials in good housekeeping practices.
- Ensure spill containment materials are readily available and easily accessible.



Local Ordinances

To address the major sources of pollution (such as trash, soil solids, and animal waste) in our community, municipalities have adopted local ordinances to help protect the environment and improve water quality. As residents, you too can help to improve water quality by complying with local ordinances and making a few changes in the way we live by:

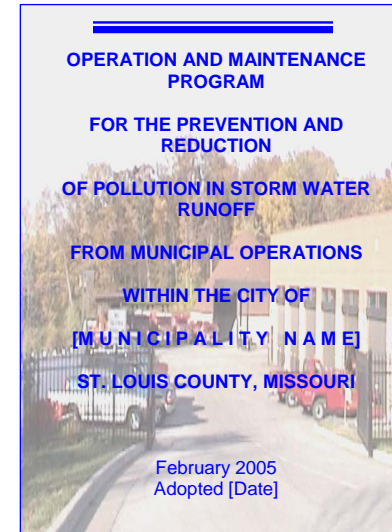
- *Trash* – prevent pollutants from entering stormwater runoff by disposing of trash properly.
- *Soil Solids* - report improper disposal of waste from construction-related activities to your local municipality.
- *Animal Waste* – clean up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste in the trash, toilet or bury it at least 6" deep.



Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP)

The SWMP was developed in partnership with 61 co-permittees (59 municipalities, Saint Louis County and MSD) to comply with federal and state regulations. The purpose of the SWMP is to prevent harmful pollutants from being carried by storm water runoff into local water bodies and to improve the water quality in the area. By working together, we can help prevent pollutants from reaching watercourses in our area and impacting water quality.

We have provided training to our employees through a series of workshops and in-house sessions on pollution prevention. We are committed to, ongoing training of our employees in the future.



Working Together To Manage Stormwater Pollution

What is my city doing to reduce stormwater pollution?



Stormwater runoff naturally contains pollutants; however, urban activities including municipal operations can increase pollutant concentrations to levels that impact water quality.

