



CITY OF SHARON MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

GET INVOLVED

WHAT DOES MS4 STAND FOR?

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

- **Municipal:** These systems are typically owned or operated by a city, town, county, or other local government entity.
- **Separate:** MS4 is "separate" because it is a distinct system designed only for collecting and conveying stormwater, not sewage.
- **Storm Sewer:** After a rain event, water that does not soak into the ground (known as runoff) flows over streets, parking lots, and other surfaces, and is then collected by the storm sewer system.
- **System:** This refers to the network of structures, including roads with drainage systems, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, storm drains, and pipes that channel stormwater to local waterways.



KEY COMPONENTS OF THE MS4 PROGRAM



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The City of Sharon's MS4 program places a strong emphasis on educating its residents about the impacts of stormwater pollution. This initiative is about fostering an understanding of how daily activities - from washing cars to applying lawn fertilizer - can affect water quality. The program includes educational materials, organizing workshops, and using social media platforms to reach a broader audience. These efforts aim to empower citizens with knowledge to make environmentally friendly choices in their daily lives.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Active community engagement is a cornerstone of the MS4 program. The city organizes and supports a range of activities, such as local stream cleanups, tree planting drives, and storm drain marking projects. These events not only help in environmental conservation but also build a strong community spirit. Moreover, public meetings and forums are held regularly to gather input and feedback from residents, ensuring that the community's voice is integral in shaping the city's environmental policies.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

To tackle pollution entering the storm sewer system, Sharon's MS4 program includes a robust strategy for detecting and eliminating illicit discharges. This involves regular inspections, sampling, and testing of outflows from the storm sewer system. The city also conducts educational campaigns to inform residents and businesses about the importance of proper waste disposal and the negative impact of dumping hazardous materials into storm drains.



CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL

Recognizing the potential environmental impact of construction activities, the MS4 program enforces stringent runoff control measures at construction sites. This includes requiring site operators to implement best management practices like silt fences, sediment basins, and stabilization measures to prevent soil erosion and manage stormwater runoff. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure compliance, and training sessions are provided for construction professionals to enhance their understanding of sustainable construction practices.



POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In Sharon, the MS4 program extends its focus beyond the construction phase. New developments and major redevelopments are required to incorporate long-term stormwater management solutions, such as rain gardens, permeable pavements, and retention basins. These features help in managing runoff, reducing flood risks, and protecting water quality. The city also provides guidance and resources to property owners to encourage the adoption of these sustainable practices.



POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

A significant aspect of the MS4 program involves instilling good housekeeping practices within municipal operations. The city ensures that all municipal staff are well-trained in pollution prevention techniques. Regular audits and inspections of municipal facilities are conducted to identify and address potential pollution sources. This approach not only helps in minimizing the city's environmental footprint but also serves as a model for residents and businesses to follow.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

