

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION IN OUR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

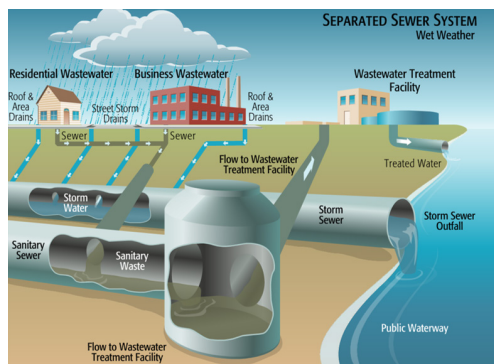
OVERVIEW

Storm drains, pipes, ditches, and streets within Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) areas in Pittsburgh discharge stormwater directly to our streams and rivers.

That stormwater carries litter, oil, road salt, and any other pollutants left on the ground, which harms local stream and river quality, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

As part of our joint MS4 permit, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) and the City of Pittsburgh are required to use best practices to reduce stormwater pollution from our municipal operations in MS4 areas, such as:

- Streets, parking lots, buildings, and other facilities owned or operated by PWSA or the City of Pittsburgh.
- Storm drain cleaning, landscaping, snow removal, and other activities conducted by PWSA, the City of Pittsburgh, or our contractors.



STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE

- Inspect each storm drain at least once every 5 years.
- Prioritize inspection, maintenance, and cleaning of storm drains near construction activities or other problem areas.
- Document the amount of material cleaned out of each storm drain, and dispose of sediment and other debris properly.
- Where possible, install inlet protection, such as filter grates or baskets.

STREET MAINTENANCE

- Conduct regular, effective street sweeping, especially on the dirtiest streets.
- Review sanding and/or salting practices, and reduce if over-applying.
- Review pesticide application practices, and reduce if over-applying.
- If sawing concrete or asphalt, prevent slurry and sediment from entering storm drains and clean up the area when done.
- Review truck washout procedures and improve if necessary.



HOTSPOT FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Stormwater hotspots are operations or activities that create higher concentrations of stormwater pollutants or present a high risk of spills, leaks, or illicit discharges. We must inspect our municipal hotspots and follow our pollution prevention plans for these hotspots.

- Instead of using a hose to wash off sidewalks, loading docks, and parking lots, sweep those areas and dispose of debris in the dumpster.
- Keep dumpster covers closed and clean up any leaks.
- Rinse painting and cleaning materials in an indoor sink.
- Maintain vehicles inside using drop cloths and drip pans, and clean up any spills with absorbent sand or kitty litter.
- Place any chemicals stored outside under cover, such as in a shed or under a tarp.



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

- Any time we dig a hole, we need to protect piles of material so that it doesn't wash or blow away, and we need to install temporary inlet protection to prevent that material from entering the sewer system.
- We also always need to pick up trash and debris, sweep up nearby sidewalks and streets, and maintain equipment.
- For our construction projects, we are required to create stormwater pollution prevention plans and implement erosion, sediment and pollution controls.
- These controls include installing silt fences, sedimentation ponds, erosion control blankets, or temporary or permanent seeding.



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Survey public parks, greenways, golf courses, sports fields, and waterfronts for stormwater pollution impacts.
- Prevent discharges from municipal swimming pools into the sewer system.
- Manage and dispose of trash, pet waste, and landscaping waste.
- Minimize fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Use native plants where possible.



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