

What's Going On In Our Corner?

Northern-West Central Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



The Importance Of A Stormwater BMP Inventory

Developing and maintaining a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) inventory is a useful way to organize public (MS4-owned) and privately owned stormwater BMPs within your community.

It is important to list the location and description of the type of BMP (e.g., wet pond) and the year constructed within the inventory. Additionally, the inventory should include information on whether an operation and maintenance plan describing the BMP's inspection procedures (e.g., inspection schedule) and record drawings exist for each BMP.

Not only do BMP inventories keep stormwater BMP records organized, but they can also be used as a tracking mechanism for the inspection and maintenance of BMPs. For example, a community may include another column in its inventory with the date the BMP was last inspected or when maintenance was last completed.

Additionally, some communities also use BMP inventories to keep track of long-term maintenance agreements (LTMA) on required privately owned BMPs to ensure private BMP owners are inspecting and maintaining their BMP.



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Artist Credits: Top image, Dave Cook. Bottom image, Silvia Houle.

City Of Superior: Storm Drain Art Project

The 2024 Storm Drain Art Project, spearheaded by the City of Superior Environmental Services Division (ESD), is a testament to the power of community collaboration. With support from the NW WI Lung Health Alliance (LHA) and a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, the project has brought together local artists, businesses, and organizations in Superior, Twin Ports, and Wisconsin to deliver powerful stormwater pollution prevention messaging.

Storm drain art is an engaging way to communicate pollution prevention messaging. This project is an excellent example of using an alternative form of outreach that tells a vital story about water quality.

The 2024 project location is on North Tower Avenue in Superior. The artists include Dave Cook, Sylvia Houle, Tom Moriarty and the Turchi Trio (Dawn, Mazie and Molly).

Storm drain murals are original designs created by artists and are their interpretations of stormwater pollution prevention. The artwork includes designs of Superior's cultural traditions and diverse interests. Due to the impermanence of storm drain art, the Storm Drain Art Touch-Up Program is available for artists to touch up their worn-down murals.

During the annual Lake Superior Day, ESD held a public engagement table at the event, requesting community members to provide storm drain mural ideas for the 2024 project. A couple of the artists used the community's ideas in their murals. The artists paint their murals through the summer and into the fall. A local business, Framing by Stengl, will take professional photos of the completed murals and feature them in a Spring 2025 gallery. The professional photos will also be printed on postcards and used in Storm Drain Art Postcard Lessons for students to share a message with family or friends about the importance of stormwater pollution prevention.



Artist Credit: Tom Moriarty



Artist Credit: Turchi Trio



Scan the QR code to learn more about the project!

Winter Is Coming: Are Construction Sites In Your Community Ready?

Everyone knows Wisconsin has four seasons: Winter, spring, summer and fall. However, Wisconsinites know there are plenty more seasons in between! After winter comes fool's spring, then a second winter, followed by another false spring, then a third winter. And when you think winter is finally over and spring is on the way, mud season starts.

Ideally, all construction sites will be seeded with fall or winter seed mixes and covered with erosion matting for winter shutdown. However, with more frequent freeze-thaw cycles becoming commonplace for Wisconsin winters, construction sites are also operating year-round. Continued construction, in combination with changing weather patterns and increased winter rain, can quickly result in wet, muddy, and erosive conditions that are challenging to correct when there isn't summer heat to help dry soggy areas.

As a result, it's important that MS4 Permittees communicate with construction site operators in their community to ensure they have an adequate plan for winter. It is recommended to start communicating with sites early in the fall (i.e., right now!) to ensure seeding happens in the appropriate timeframe or that sites have the appropriate erosion control materials to get them through the winter.

Below are two winter-specific site management strategies. However, if your community has more strategies, tips and tricks, or stories of hard lessons learned, please let us know so we may share!

- **Full winter shutdown:** Seed and stabilize the site completely in accordance with DNR Tech Standards. If properly done, all other BMPs can be removed and re-installed before work starts again in the spring.
- **Minimized work area:** For sites that will continue work, defining priority work areas and avoiding 'riskier' practices such as large-scale grading and stockpiling can help the site be successful in the winter. Note: these sites should seed and stabilize all erodible areas outside of these footprints. All other BMPs must remain and be repaired regularly.

Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition: Re-evaluates Approach On MS4 Public

Over the years, the Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Coalition (NWSC) has gotten the word out about stormwater pollution in various ways.

In the MS4 General Permit, there are requirements for a specific number of active and passive events the Permittee must address. After NWSC categorized and evaluated recent educational efforts, they noticed they had room for improvement in their support of active educational events. NWSC's first new effort was creating a presentation they would share with classes in local high schools. After each presentation, we gave each student a "No Farms No Food" t-shirt, where the back said, "No P (phosphorus) in the water." NWSC explained that the t-shirts are just as popular with adults as kids, so NWSC plans to keep many of those on hand as giveaways in the future.

NWSC also decided that an indoor expo style booth was needed to convey stormwater education. NWSC explained creating an expo booth display allowed them to re-examine

how they reached the public:

- A new web address was established that would be easy to remember and print on giveaways.
- NWSC updated its website to be a landing page for public outreach.
- A new set of fact sheets were created that people could take with them.
- Four stormwater stickers for decorating a water bottle were created as giveaways.

Now, NWSC has several expo booth elements (e.g., table cover, pull-up floor banner, various signs, etc.) that Coalition members can check out and use at their events in the coming years. You can see our public landing page and full website here: stormwater-ducky.org.



As-Builts For Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs

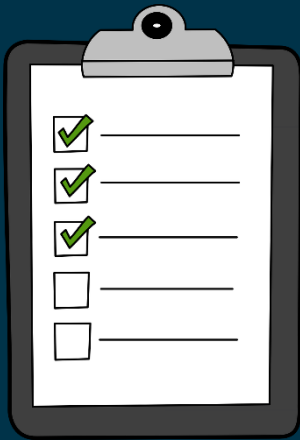
As-builts (i.e., record drawings) reflect how a BMP was built.

While the MS4 permit does not require MS4 Permittees to obtain as-builts, many MS4s do, as this is useful in determining if the BMP was built as designed. If not, this may influence inspection and maintenance requirements, provide a different level of pollutant reduction than intended or require alterations.

Some MS4 Permittees also use as-builts to determine if BMP maintenance is needed before permit termination. For example, if excess sediment is discharged into a wet pond during construction, the permanent pool may be too shallow. Thus, MS4s will require maintenance of the BMP before terminating the permit.

So, if your community does not require as-builts currently, perhaps this is something to consider.





Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Winter Edition?

We want to hear about your municipality's success stories and practical procedures.

Please reach out to Wisconsin DNR stormwater contacts with stories to include in upcoming editions:

Michelle Asher
Michelle.Asher@wi.gov

Or

Teagan Wagner
Teagan.Wagner@wi.gov



Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

NEW: Waterways and Wetland Question and Complaint Form

The DNR Waterways program has developed a new tool to streamline customer service. The public can now use the [Waterway and Wetland Question and Complaint Form online](#) to submit general permitting questions and complaints for potential violations.

The Waterways program regulates a large variety of activities that may impact wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes, such as:

- Piers, boat shelters, riprap, fish habitat structures and other structures
- Bridges, culverts, fords and temporary crossings
- Dredging
- Stream realignment and enclosure
- Ponds within 500 feet of a waterway
- Discharges of fill material in wetlands

Upcoming Erosion Control Compliance Training (NASECA) Dec.11-12, 2024

NASECA Erosion Control Compliance Training will be held at Holiday Inn Pewaukee-Milwaukee West in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Registration is coming soon; please visit NASECA's [Events & Training webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming Wisconsin Salt Wise Trainings

This free training is for winter maintenance professionals who remove snow, apply road salt or maintain snow removal equipment. Learn how using the right amount of salt can save time, money and our waters. Visit [Winter Salt Certification \(wisaltwise.com\)](http://wisaltwise.com) for information on upcoming training opportunities.

Wisconsin Land & Water Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters training

Phil Gaebler (City of Madison) and Christal Campbell (Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership) explain how timely street leaf removal before the rain can help keep our waters clean. Watch their training, [Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters, on YouTube](#).

DNR Magazine Welcomes Fall

Plan your fall adventure with help from the latest issue of [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine. Cover stories about hunting will get you ready for the season, including [duck hunting details](#) and a colorful [guide to ducks](#) you might see in the state. There's also a story highlighting efforts to help everyone "[Join the Hunt](#)," especially through mentoring efforts and access to public lands.