

What's Going On In Our Corner?

South 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.



Topics

P.1 Measurable Goals

P.2 Winter Stabilization At Construction Sites, Leaf Collection

P.3 Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

Let's Talk About Measurable Goals

The MS4 permit sets the minimum expectations to reduce stormwater pollutants. But to reduce pollutants to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP), one must use adaptive learning! Simply put, adaptive learning is evaluating current practices and looking for improvements. Once improvements are identified, take action and work toward them. However, to know if your actions were successful, it is essential to evaluate your results – this is where measurable goals come in. Measurable goals should include metrics (qualitative or quantitative) so you can monitor progress and make data-driven decisions.

To better explain this, here are some examples of measurable goals:

Construction Program Example

Although the Permittee is implementing permit conditions (i.e., conducting site inspections and utilizing enforcement), they are still finding noncompliance issues are not resolved in a timely manner at active construction sites. To better address this issue, they may set a goal to have 50% or more noncompliance sites return to compliance within 24 hours. To achieve this goal, the Permittee may choose to implement a variety of actions such as providing education to construction applicants during plan review, increasing municipally conducted erosion control inspections, utilizing more enforcement, etc.

Post-Construction Program

The Permittee identifies a communication gap between two departments when inspecting publicly owned stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). Consequently, BMPs are not being inspected or maintained. To ensure all BMPs are inspected and maintained (the goal), the Permittee implements a process such as a shared calendar or quarterly check-ins.

Pollution Prevention

The Permittee does not have a leaf collection service but offers a residential leaf drop-off service at one of their municipal properties. However, residents are not instructed to bring leaves to the property, and the Permittee notices loose leaves everywhere. To minimize this, the Permittee may educate residents on how to properly bring in their leaves (e.g., bring them in bags instead of loose in a truck bed, etc.).

After implementing actions, the Permittee should evaluate whether their goal was achieved. If so, they should continue to implement those actions and look for future program improvements. If not, they should evaluate their actions to better achieve the goal in the future.

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

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.

What Happens To The Leaves After Collection?

Some municipalities bring leaves to their DPW yard or other municipal property for temporary storage. Materials should be stored in a way that considers the flow path of stormwater to reduce stormwater contamination. Below are some leaf collection considerations:

Placement Of The Leaf Storage Pile

The pile should be moved to an impervious surface where runoff can enter a stormwater drain or into a nearby waterway. Consider placing the storage pile on a pervious surface or in areas where vegetation buffers can interrupt the stormwater flow. A canopy or enclosure to limit the leaf pile's exposure to wind and rain is also an option.

Have A Plan On How Your Community Will Get Rid Of The Leaf Pile

Composting the pile is an option; however, please visit the DNR's website to learn more about what can be composted and the rules and regulations. If your community decides to compost, ensure that there is a way to get rid of the material so it does not accumulate over time (e.g., allow residents to pick up material).



As-Builts For Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs

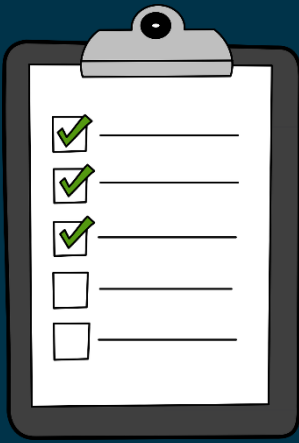
As-builts (i.e., record drawings) reflect how a BMP was built.

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 staff with stories to include in upcoming editions:

Sean Spencer

Sean.Spencer@wi.gov

Or

Dan Bekta

Eugene.Bekta@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.