

Hamilton County Storm Water District E-Newsletter Fall 2020



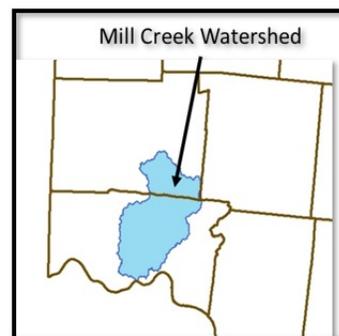
Quarterly News & Updates from your Partners at
the Hamilton County Storm Water District

Changes Coming to the Ohio EPA MS4 General Permit

On July 15, 2020, the Ohio EPA issued a draft NPDES Phase II MS4 General Permit (Permit) for public review and comment. The Permit, which is typically renewed every five years, contains requirements that the Hamilton County Storm Water District (District) and its co-permittees must meet to remain in compliance. The District identifies those permit compliance activities in its storm water management program (SWMP) plan – which is submitted to Ohio EPA for approval.

The most prominent new feature in the Permit is the focus on addressing total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements for watersheds with approved TMDL reports. There are two approved TMDL watersheds in the District – the Mill Creek and the Lower Little Miami River. Specific new performance standards for each co-permittee community with one or more TMDL watersheds located within its boundaries have been proposed.

These include:



- Developing education, outreach, public participation and involvement activities targeting TMDL pollutants, and tracking of co-permittee participation in these activities;
- Implementing either a water quality basin retrofit, restoring a channelized stream, or adopting new regulations requiring developers to use green infrastructure storm water management practices where feasible; and
- Developing and implementing either a proactive street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, or leaf/yard waste collection program.

The Permit also includes the following changes to the existing requirements:

- **Passing an ordinance requiring covering of all salt piles at commercial, institutional, and non-NPDES permitted industrial facilities;**
- **Installing protective covers over co-permittee salt piles and installing secondary containment, bollards, or other protective devices around liquid deicing tanks;**
- **Conducting dry weather field screening of all outfalls (to a maximum of 1000) during the permit term;**
- **Sampling and testing of all outfalls that are found to be flowing during field screening;**
- **Using standardized checklists or software when reviewing development plans and performing inspections at construction and post-construction sites;**
- **Establishing a program to ensure long-term maintenance of post-construction controls as defined in the operation and maintenance agreements for each site;**
- **Demonstrating consistent application of enforcement protocols and documenting enforcement actions for construction site inspections, post-construction control inspections, and for identified illicit discharges;**
- **Implementing proactive storm sewer conveyance and outfall inspection and maintenance programs – including repairs to damaged outfalls;**
- **Tracking and reporting of quantities of salt, deicers, fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides. Tracking and reporting quantities and disposal locations of collected waste, street sweeping, and catch basin cleaning materials; and**
- **Updating co-permittee training to include new Permit-related compliance activities.**

On September 8, 2020, the District submitted an eight-page comment document to Ohio EPA on the proposed Permit language – including suggested rewording when applicable. Comments focused on:

- Lessening the economic hardship imposed by the new TMDL performance standards;
- Allowing flexibility to perform alternative activities when Permit-required activities are infeasible;
- Requesting removal of TMDL pollutants identified in the permit that are not applicable to District activities;
- Permitting field screening of potential sources of illicit discharges as an alternative to screening outfalls;
- Questioning the appropriateness of tracking and reporting on usage of salt, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers;
- Verifying the applicability of new salt management, street sweeping, and catch basin cleaning programs in addressing TMDL pollutants; and

- Increasing the proposed 180-day SWMP development timeline back to the two-year timeline in prior permits.

The final Permit will be issued after Ohio EPA addresses all comments, produces a draft final document incorporating these responses, and obtains approval from the USEPA. The anticipated release date is late fall or early winter.

Click [here](#) to view the entire document on HCSWD's Comments to Ohio EPA on the MS4 General Permit.

Among the proposed changes to the Ohio EPA MS4 Permit for Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control (MCM4) and Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment (MCM5) is the requirement for an objective tool such as software or a checklist to document each SWPPP Review. Documentation of any communication regarding review and plan revisions and any notification to obtain NPDES permit coverage shall be maintained.

The new permit also requires an objective tool such as software or a checklist shall be used to document each site inspection to ensure all conditions of the Construction General Permit are addressed.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Hamilton County Planning and Development Stormwater + Infrastructure Department are working to meet these proposed requirements and develop these tools for use specific within the Stormwater District.

Follow the links below for examples of these checklists:

- [SWP3 Checklist](#)
- [Inspection Checklist](#)

A New Approach to Reducing the Impact of District Facility Activities on Waterways

The District has updated its approach to developing and implementing plans to reduce the likelihood of District municipal and township facility operations and activities introducing pollutants into local waterways. The facility storm water plan (FSWP) program promotes the use of controls to reduce contact of storm water runoff or snow melt with materials stored and used in facility operations and activities.



Physical and procedural controls are recommended for operations and activities such as deicing, road maintenance, vehicle fueling, vehicle/equipment maintenance and storage, lawn and open space management, storm water asset management, waste handling and disposal, and building maintenance. The program also addresses areas where potential spills could occur. Annual inspections assess the continued effectiveness of these controls.

To promote program consistency across the District, fillable PDF forms and GIS-based maps were developed to use in preparing individualized FSWPs for each facility in the District inventory. The new FSWP format replaces the former water quality maintenance and management plans which were primarily paper based. The digital forms are simple to update as facility operations and activities change over time.

Facility walkthroughs are conducted at least once a year to identify operations, activities, and associated materials as well as opportunities for these materials to reach waterways via storm sewers or overland flow. During the walkthroughs existing controls are evaluated and recommendations for additional controls are provided. All information is entered into the digital forms and maps.

After piloting the FSWP program in 2019, the program is being implemented Districtwide in 2020. District representatives prepare the base plan, perform the walkthroughs with facility staff, assist in completing the FSWP forms when requested, and create/update facility maps. To date, the District has prepared baseline FSWPs for 52 facilities, conducted 35 walkthroughs, and submitted 24 completed FSWPs for facility staff review. Eighteen have been finalized and signed. All FSWPs must be completed by the end of December to meet Ohio EPA permit requirements.

MCM 6 Training with Public Health

New Format for Annual Training

Due to the current circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic, HCPH has put together a PowerPoint presentation in the form of a video for member communities to watch in lieu of an in person training session. A stormwater video has also been uploaded to be viewed by staff as part of the training.

This will ensure that all member communities are still completing the required annual facility training to remain in compliance with the federally mandated Phase II stormwater program, while staying safe. The PowerPoint and stormwater video will take 45 minutes to view.

Please click the links below to access the training presentation and video. To keep track of staff trained, please fill out a Sign-In Sheet. Fill in your jurisdiction and have staff sign the sheet just as in years past.

[PowerPoint Video](#)

[Stormwater Video](#)

Upcoming Events

Joint Annual Meeting

During these hard times three Ohio SWCDs, Franklin, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton have come together in yet another initiative that breaks down regional differences

Columbus

Cleveland

Cincinnati

JOINT
Annual Meeting

Free Entry!

Community + Conservation + 3 Cs

Join us for an evening of conservation!

Thursday | **OCTOBER 22** | 6PM - 7PM
Online on Zoom Webinars

Contact Us
(513) 772-7645

»»»» www.hcswed.org

and unites us on what we hold common – Community, Conservation, and the fact that we are all Ohioans.

Here is an opportunity for people all over Ohio, the Nation, and the World to get a bird’s eye view of the conservation work that is happening in these three regions of Ohio.

The Joint Annual meeting will be live on Zoom’s webinar platform and can be accessed from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. The proceedings will involve presentations, videos, and updates of all the groundbreaking work being done in conservation. After the meeting, there will be a Facebook room where guests

can hang out for some social interaction.

We hope you can join us on this amazing journey as we talk about conservation starting at the Magnificent Lake Erie, and flow past the Great Scioto River, and end up at the Southern Shores of Ohio in the Beautiful Ohio River.

Register Now!

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami

Saturday, October 24

9 am—12 noon

Heritage Park

Colerain Twp in Hamilton County

11405 East Miami River Rd, Cincinnati 45252

Great Miami River Cleanup is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, scouts, churches and other groups.

Free T-shirt

Free bottled water

Garbage bags & gloves will be provided

Register Online:

www.GreatMiamiRiverCleanup.org

Or Contact:

Sara Fehring

772-7645



Storm Water Awareness Week

Stormwater Awareness Week is a regional effort that encourages communities (and the groups that care about them) to raise stormwater awareness via newsletters and social media posts or with fun and educational events.

To find out what you can do at home or work to help keep water clean, visit the Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week [website](#).



THE HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION WEBINAR SERIES

There is a growing interest in green practices and infrastructure in communities around our country. The green practices we embrace now can be crucial in making our communities sustainable and livable for our future generations. For a Home Owner Association (HOA), green infrastructure and practices can become a divisive topic.

If you are a leader at your HOA or just a homeowner that lives in an HOA, then these webinars are for you. You don't even have to live in an HOA to attend. If you want to learn more about green practices, this webinar is for you too. Our webinar series is designed to demystify green practices and infrastructure. Our expert panelists will give you all the resources you need to understand the issues and make decisions that will best benefit your community.

The webinars will be conducted on the following Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm.

November 10 - Detention/Retention Basin Maintenance and Retrofits
Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist, Hamilton County Soil & Water
Chey Alberto, Urban Conservationist, Hamilton County Soil & Water
Ben Poole, EI, Project Engineer, Hamilton County Planning + Development

November 17 - Composting and Rain Barrels
Jenny Lohmann, Community Outreach Coordinator, Hamilton County Recycling & Solid Waste
Melissa Proffitt, Education & Communications Specialist, Warren County Soil & Water

December 1 - Solar and Geothermal Energy
Jason Brown, Senior Sales & Applications Engineer; Employee-Owner, Melink Corporation

December 8 - Rain Gardens & Sustainable Landscaping
Craig Frye, Environmental Scientist, Sanitation District 1
Elizabeth Fet, Environmental Scientist/Aquatic Biologist, Sanitation District 1

THE WEBINARS ARE FREE, BUT REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY.
WEBINARS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE ZOOM WEBINAR PLATFORM

Register At:
SaveLocalWaters.Org/HOA



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Here is your opportunity to dispose of any household hazardous waste you may have around your home, think pool chemicals, oil-based paint, pesticides, used motor oil, corrosive liquids, etc. Registration for this event is required, and it is only open to Hamilton County Residents.

It is important to remember that these items should not be placed in your residential trash or recycling bins. It is important that they are disposed correctly.

[Click here](#) to find out additional

information and to register.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Sat. 10-24-20 // 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. // **Must Register Online**
This event is for Hamilton County Residents Only

ACCEPTABLE

Pesticides, Herbicides,
Fertilizers, Solvents,
Thinners, Lead Paint,
Propane Tanks,
Fire Extinguishers,
Gasoline, Kerosene,
Gasoline/Oil Mix,
Used Motor Oil,
Brake Fluid, Stain,
Oil Based Paint,
Fluorescent Lights,
Antifreeze, Cleaners,
Pool Chemicals,
Mercury, Thermostats,
Thermometers, etc.

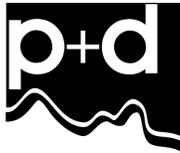
UNACCEPTABLE

LATEX PAINT,
Unmarked Cylinders,
Unknown Materials,
Radioactive Materials,
Smoke Detectors,
Ammunition,
Explosives, Fireworks,
Flares, Controlled
Substances, Yard
Trimming, Tires,
Garbage, etc.



For a more comprehensive list, please visit
HamiltonCountyRecycles.org

Storm Water District Websites



HAMILTON COUNTY
**Planning +
Development**

138 East Court Street, Room 801
- Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (513) 946-4550



HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

250 William Howard Taft, 2nd
Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45219
Phone: (513) 946-7800

Hamilton County

Your Partner
in Conservation
Since 1945



**Soil and Water
Conservation District**

1325 East Kemper Rd., Suite 115
Cincinnati, OH 45246
Phone: (513) 772-7645