

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)



Storm Water Pollution Prevention



History

In response to the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in 1990 developed Phase I of the NPDES Storm Water Program. It was designed to address pollutants associated with storm water runoff from “medium” to “large” municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving populations of 100,000 or greater, as well as runoff from construction activity disturbing five acres of land or greater. Ten categories of industrial activity were also addressed.

In 1999, the USEPA expanded the Phase I program. The NPDES Phase II ruling includes operators of small MS4s in urbanized areas, UAs (as determined by the U. S. Bureau of Census) and operators of small construction activities that disturb greater than one acre.

Why the concern for storm water runoff?

The answer is pollution. Although many people think of point source pollution (pollution that can be easily identified through an outlet pipe, such as an industrial plant or sewage treatment plant) as the primary source of water pollution, non-point source pollution (NPS) in reality is the large problem. NPS comes from sources all over the watershed, and its points of origin can be very difficult to determine.

When it rains or when snow melts, the water washes away pollutants that have accumulated on roads, highways, sidewalks, and parking lots. These pollutants are carried away by water and washed directly into local streams and rivers through ditches and storm sewers. When left uncontrolled, these pollutants can cause stream habitat degradation, a loss of aesthetic value, and contamination of drinking water supplies.

Program Overview

About 280 municipalities in Ohio are included in the NPDES program. These small municipalities were required to develop a storm water management program that implements six minimum measures, which focus on a best management practice (BMP) approach.

Minimum Control Measures

These programs are required to reduce the discharge of non-point pollutants to the “maximum extent practicable,” protect water quality, and satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Each program consists of six elements:

1. **Public Education and Outreach** — Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted storm water can have on water quality.
2. **Public Participation / Involvement**— Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including but not limited to, storm drain stenciling, stream clean-ups, and/or encouraging citizen representatives to serve on a storm water management panel.
3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**—Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system (includes developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste).
4. **Construction Site Runoff Control**— Developing implementing, and enforcing a pollution control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land (includes requiring controls such as water detention ponds, seeding, and mulching).

Affected Areas of Medina County

Regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, all areas within Medina County are affected by the small construction site portion of the NPDES Phase II regulations. However, only the following UA designations are considered small MS4s:

The Cities of Brunswick, Medina, and Wadsworth

Brunswick Hills, Granger, Guilford, Hinckley, Lafayette, Liverpool, Medina, Montville, Sharon, Wadsworth, and York Townships

The County (as it operates in the UAs)

5. **Post-Construction Runoff Control**—Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g. wetlands) or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.
6. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**—Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques (e.g. regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning).

For more information on any of these six control measures and/or specific BMPs, please contact the *Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District* or any of the participating entities.

Volunteer Opportunities Available !

All of the Phase II Jurisdictions within Medina County have developed management plans that specify the need for public participation.

The following is a list of volunteer opportunities:

Are you a teacher interested in a wonderful educational opportunity?

Get involved in the Stream Monitoring Program with local schools!

Would you like to sponsor a stream crossing to help make others aware of the importance of one of the county's most precious resources?

Find out more about the County Creekside Signage Program!

Are you part of a group looking for a service activity? Learn more about the following programs:

Storm Drain Stenciling Stream Clean-Ups

Or maybe your group would like to hear more about storm water issues facing Medina County?

Look into the Public Presentations Program!

Would you like to help oversee the implementation of your local township or municipal storm water plan?

Join your local Storm Water Commission!

For further information on any of these programs, contact the *Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District* or any of the participating entities.

MS4 Jurisdictions

Brunswick Hills Township
1918 Pearl Road
Brunswick, Ohio 44212
(330) 225-8300

Guilford Township
3800 Greenwich Road
Seville, Ohio 44273
(330) 769-1929

Montville Township
6665 Wadsworth Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 725-8313

City of Brunswick
4095 Center Road
Brunswick, Ohio 44212
(330) 225-9144

Hinckley Township
1410 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 7
Hinckley, Ohio 44233
(330) 278-4181

Sharon Township
1322 Sharon Copley Road,
Sharon Center, Ohio 44274
(330) 239-4406

City of Medina
132 N. Elmwood
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 725-8861

Lafayette Township
6776 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 725-6515

Wadsworth Township
320 Chestnut Street
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
(330) 336-6161

City of Wadsworth
120 Maple Street
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
(330) 335-1521

Liverpool Township
6801 School Street
Valley City, Ohio 44280
(330) 4833102

York Township
6609 Norwalk Road,
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-0185

Granger Township
3717 Ridge Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 239-3611

Medina Township
3799 Huffman Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 725-5713

**Medina County
Commissioners**
144 North Broadway Street
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-9208

Assisting County Agencies

**Medina County
Soil & Water Conservation District**
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-9322

**Office of the
Medina County Highway Engineer**
791 West Smith Road, P.O. Box 825
Medina, Ohio 44258
(330) 723-9561

**Medina County
Health Department**
4800 Ledgewood Drive, P.O. Box 1033
Medina, Ohio 44258
(330) 723-9523

**Medina County
Sanitary Engineer's Office**
791 West Smith Road, P.O. Box 542
Medina, Ohio 44258
(330) 723-9585