

Stormwater Management

Grant's Stormwater Management Program

According to the National Water Quality Inventory, stormwater runoff from urbanized areas is the leading source of water pollution. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a plan to address stormwater pollution in urbanized areas, which requires municipalities, like the City of Grant, that own and operate storm sewer systems to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. The MS4 permit mandates MS4 communities to reduce the amount of pollution that enters their storm sewer systems through a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Each SWPPP contains six program components:

1. Public education and outreach
2. Public participation and involvement
3. Illegal discharge detection and elimination
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control
5. Post-construction stormwater management
6. Good housekeeping and pollution prevention practices for municipal operations

Grant has developed a SWPPP in conformance with the MPCA's requirements and you can review Grant's plan to address stormwater pollution per the additional documents.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns. As it flows, this stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves, litter and other pollutants. We don't need a heavy rain to send pollutants rushing towards streams, wetlands, lakes and oceans. A garden hose alone can supply enough water.

Even if your house is not on a lake, storm drains and sewers can efficiently convey runoff from your neighborhood to the nearest body of water, sometimes a pond or a wetland. Contrary to popular belief, most storm sewers do not carry stormwater to wastewater treatment plants, which is why it's important that only rain goes down the storm drain.

Illicit Discharges

What is an Illicit Discharge?

By definition, an illicit discharge is an unlawful act of disposing (or dumping, spilling, emitting or other discharge) of any substance other than stormwater into the streets, gutters, ditches and ponds that make up our stormwater drainage system, or directly into streams or lakes themselves.

What we do at home and at work affects our local water resources, because our storm drains and ditches are connected to nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Even some fairly common activities could be

considered illicit discharge, like dumping leaves, grass clippings, motor oil, paint or other household hazard wastes into a storm drain, allowing discharge from failing septic systems, and improper disposal of sewage from boating or camping. The result is untreated garbage and filth that contribute high levels of pollutants, like heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to our lakes and streams - so we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

Who do I contact if I find a potential illicit discharge?

If you see anyone discharging any substance other than stormwater in roadside ditches and storm drains, please report it to the City at 651-426-3383. For potentially hazardous materials and petroleum spills, call 9-1-1 FIRST when there is an immediate threat to life or property.

Partnerships

Grant has partnered with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) to provide education about the impacts of non-point source pollution on local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater resources. We collaborate with the EMWREP to engage residents, provide educational opportunities for public participation, and cost-share assistance for the installation of best management practices, like raingardens.

For more information about the EMWREP, please visit their website for more information:

www.mnwcd.org/emwrep

Watershed Districts

We all live in a watershed. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They can cross county, state, and national boundaries, because water knows no boundaries and goes where it wants to. By definition, a watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place, such as a stream or lake.

Watershed Districts differ from other government units, such as states, counties and cities, in that their focus is solely upon preserving and managing the waters for the public benefit and that their boundaries do not follow political lines, but rather natural watersheds. These special districts are formed when citizens, county boards, or cities petition the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources under provisions outlined in state law, and the Board continues to oversee them after they are formed.

There are four watershed districts within the City of Grant: Browns Creek, Carnelian-Marine St. Croix, Rice Creek and Valley Branch. The City often collaborates with some of these watershed districts to provide education and outreach to residents and cost-share assistance for the installation of best management practices. In addition, the City also relies on some of these watershed districts to assist in review of new construction projects and permitting, for example.

Do you live in one of the watershed districts? Check out their website for more information:

- Browns Creek Watershed District: www.bcwd.org
- Carnelian-Marine St. Croix Watershed District: www.cmscwd.org
- Rice Creek Watershed District: www.ricecreek.org
- Valley Branch Watershed District: www.vbwd.org

SWPPP and Annual Reports

Stormwater management is important to Grant. Below you'll find a copy of our SWPPP and past reports on the progress we've made.

- Grant's MS4 SWPPP Reauthorization Application: Attached
- 2013 Annual Report: Attached
- 2012 Annual Report: Attached
- 2011 Annual Report: Attached

Helpful Articles & Brochures

You can help keep our waters clean. Read the articles and brochures provided below for some simple tips.

- What You Can Do to Protect Your Environment:
<http://www.cityofgrant.us/sites/default/files/content/misc/protect-your-environment.pdf>
- Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution – What is it?:
<http://www.cityofgrant.us/sites/default/files/content/misc/nonpoint-source-pollution.pdf>

Stormwater Links

- MPCA MS4 Permit Page: www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/municipal-stormwater/municipal-separate-storm-sewer-systems-ms4.html
- EPA Stormwater Page: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/index.cfm>
- Clean Water MN: www.cleanwatermn.org
- U of M Extension Stormwater Page: www.extension.umn.edu/environment/stormwater/
- EMWREP: www.mnwcd.org/emwrep/

Questions about the SWPPP?

Do you have questions about the SWPPP or stormwater management? Are you aware of a violation of the SWPPP or have concerns about a project? Please mail a written letter to City of Grant, PO Box 577, Willernie, MN 55090 or send an email to the City Clerk at: clerk@cityofgrant.us. Written complaints must include complainants name, address and phone number and must be signed.