

The Town of New Hartford is an MS4 - **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System** which means that the quality of stormwater entering our storm sewer system is regulated. These regulations originate with the EPA on the federal level. In New York State, the DEC is the regulating authority for the MS4 program.

The Town is not the only MS4 in the area. We are part of the Utica Urbanized Area originally identified in the 2000 Census. The Utica Urbanized area also includes the Towns of Whitestown, Kirkland, Marcy, Deerfield, Schuyler and Paris. It also includes the Villages of Oriskany, Whitesboro, New York Mills, Yorkville, Clinton, and New Hartford as well as the City of Utica.

The MS4 program **regulates the quality of stormwater in the storm sewer system** which includes piped sections and open ditches. Stormwater quality is a concern because **stormwater does not discharge to a wastewater treatment plant** but rather is conveyed, **unfiltered to streams and wetlands**. Nationwide, a large variety of pollutants enter our streams and wetlands via stormwater runoff. Stormwater pollutants such as litter, fluids from leaking vehicles, pet waste, sediment from unstable construction sites and illicit connections from households contaminate our streams and wetlands.

There are 6 minimum control measures that the Town is required to address in order to remain in compliance with the stormwater regulations in the MS4 program. The Town and the other MS4 communities work locally with **partners like our neighboring municipalities, the SWCD, HOCCPP, the Solid Waste Authority and the Sauquoit Creek Basin Coalition** to accomplish our goals. These include the following:

- Public Outreach and Education
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post Construction stormwater management
- Good housekeeping.

Public Outreach and Education entails educating the public about stormwater quality issues such as litter prevention, solid waste management, green waste pickup (keeping green waste out of the ditches and catch basins), recycling, repairing leaking vehicles, etc. The SWCD and Solid Waste Authority cover many of these issues and provide the public access to publications from their websites. The town's website contains the annual report from last year under the Planning Department's link. We're with HOCCPP to improve our website and create wider access to stormwater documents which are currently available at the New Hartford Street site.

Public Involvement and Participation entails working with the public on projects to improve stormwater quality (i.e., **stream cleanup in the Sauquoit Creek**) and ensuring that the public has a contact for stormwater concerns. **Our contact is now Rick Sherman**, the Highway Superintendent. We are working with the HOCCPP to put our stormwater management program plan (SWMP Plan) online. This stormwater module covers nearly every aspect of our stormwater program. An additional activity was an **Eagle Scout project** where the storm

drains were mapped and marked in the Fall of 2009 at Sangertown Square. We are awaiting word on funding to find out if we will be able to purchase permanent storm drain markers. Storm drain markers educate the public about stormwater outfalls by informing them to avoid dumping materials in the catch basins. Markings usually say "Don't Dump - Drains to Stream" and includes an image of aquatic life.

Illicit discharge detection and elimination entails ensuring that residents and businesses in the town are not contributing non-stormwater (i.e., sanitary waste) into the storm drain system. Illicit discharges **include floor drains** from auto repair shops or **graywater from residences** for example. The town has been working with HOCCPP to develop a local law to address and prohibit illicit discharges. In addition, the town contracted with the SWCD in 2009 in order to **map the stormwater system in the entire town**. The SWCD is in the process of post-processing the thousands of points collected showing the catch basins, ditch lines and outfalls. Information collected includes **pipe type, flow characteristics, pollution issues, system condition and presence of non-stormwater discharges into the system**.

Construction site runoff control: All construction sites where at least 1 acre of soil will be disturbed are required to gain coverage under the DEC's construction activities permit. Because the Town of New Hartford is an MS4, **developers are also required to present their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans to the Town** prior to gaining coverage under the DEC's statewide general permit. The Town is required to sign the SWPPP review form and inspect active construction sites. The Town is also required to inspect construction sites prior to the developer's application for a Notice of Termination from DEC. We also have a local law, which describes this process to developers and the public. We regularly inspect our construction sites in the town and communicate deficiencies to developers. All contractors working on construction sites are required to be trained through DEC's Erosion and Sediment Control course - the MS4 is given this mission. The SWCD trained 110 local contractors during the 2009/2010 reporting period. An additional 7 sessions have been held since March of 2010.

Post Construction site runoff control: If a new construction site is required to develop a permanent stormwater management basin, long-term maintenance is required. The Town must be apprised of who is responsible for maintenance, when maintenance will occur, etc. Often, the town is responsible for maintenance and must keep a log of where maintenance occurs and when. Our stormwater committee actively looks at areas in the town where residents are harmed by stormwater runoff.

Good Housekeeping: This covers the activities of the departments within the town who could contribute to stormwater pollution like the highway department, parks department, fire department, etc. Mostly, the DEC is concerned with floor drains or catch basins that convey contaminated water to a stream or wetland. Employees receive training on spill prevention and cleanup practices as well as vehicle washing practices, fueling practices, painting practices, salt/sand storage and application, street sweeping, catch basin vacuuming and ditch cleaning operations. We have received training materials and have sessions offered regularly by the SWCD. The town has several miles of roads to sweep, hundreds of catch basins to vacuum and several acres of parking lots to sweep. By collecting this material, we keep it out of our storm system, which keeps our streams and wetlands cleaner.

Our annual report is a 32-page document, which records our stormwater related activities between March 2009 and March 2010. This year's version of the form became available on April 1, 2010 from DEC. We are presenting it tonight to encourage comments. The report will also be made available on our website for public review and comment. The form will be mailed to DEC on June 1 in order for the town to remain in compliance.

Miscellaneous notes: The newest MS4 permit became available 2 weeks ago but the basic regulations remain the same as they have been since 2003. Schools are required to comply with the MS4 regulations and they have been informed of such by the DEC.

We continue to work with our partners to protect stormwater quality. We have an active stormwater committee to address stormwater quantity issues. Please feel free to review the report on our website and ask us any questions.

Thank you.