

MS4 UPDATE

Information for MS4 Permittees in the Lower Grand River Watershed



Thank you for attending the 15th Annual LGROW Spring Forum on May 11, 2018!

Attached to this electronic newsletter, you will find an informational brochure about ways to prevent pollution during the summer. There are also newsletter articles that highlight general watershed awareness. Please post and/or distribute to your employees and community as you see fit.

MS4 PERMITS

All communities have received their updated Stormwater Standards Manuals. These manuals outline design standards to comply with new Post Construction Controls under the next MS4 permit. This is one of many documents that will make up the entire MS4 program for your community.

Timely review is necessary. Please work with Cara to get your comments incorporated into these documents. If you need extra explanation or desire further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact GVMC for help.

Once review is complete, the permit application will be submitted to MDEQ. While we are waiting for MDEQ's Permits Section to issue new MS4 permits, the LGROW Design Spreadsheet will be finalized in order to aid developers with compliance to the new permit requirements.

IDEP OUTFALL SCREENING

This summer, GVMC will be completing dry-weather screening of MS4 outfalls in accordance with the Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP). The last time outfall screening occurred was in 2013 and 2014. GVMC will let you know when we will be in your community to complete this work. Screening is weather dependent, so we appreciate your willingness to be flexible.

GVMC provided IDEP training in May. Many thanks to those who attended- this will be documented in your annual progress report to MDEQ.

The training is available for you to share with those who were not able to attend. You can find the slides here:

www.lgrow.org/ms4information

Please record the date and the names of DPW employees who view the training. We will report them to MDEQ in your progress report.

ON THE HORIZON

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Technical Committee

June 20, 2018, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Sustainability Committee

August 6, 2018, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Public Engagement Committee

September 12, 2018, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Committee meetings are held at the offices of GVMC.

2018 PROGRESS REPORTS

In July, GVMC will request the information required for the 2017-2018 MS4 progress reports from your community. Please keep track of the training that you and your DPW staff complete during this reporting period, and your public education and outreach efforts.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council is hosting a green infrastructure seminar on August 23 to discuss new development standards for water quality protection and using green infrastructure to meet those standards. A call for posters will be announced in early June and registration will open by late June. The seminar will be held in Holland, MI. Stay tuned for more information.



Save the Date!

AUGUST 23, 2018
1:00-4:30 PM

MAKING THE CASE
FOR GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE:
DESIGN
STANDARDS FOR
WATER QUALITY

CITYFLATSHOTEL
61 EAST 7TH ST
HOLLAND

LUNCH & LEARN STORMWATER BMPs

A representative from Upstream Technologies (<http://upstreamtechnologies.us/>) will be at GVMC on June 29 from 12 pm - 1 pm, holding a lunch and learn to inform us about their company's products that help manage stormwater. There will be discussion about how these products can help your community meet the water quality requirements under the new MS4 permit. Please RSVP to Cara so we can get an accurate headcount.



LGROW KAYAKING TRIP

The kayaking trip that was cancelled due to poor weather after the Spring Forum has been rescheduled for Friday July 13th. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.

LGROW AT THE WHITECAPS

Join us at Fifth Third Ballpark on Thursday, July 26 for another exciting WhiteCaps Baseball game! Meet Major Runoff and other LGROW staff and learn about watersheds, take home a cool LGROW baseball, and more! The game begins at 7:05 pm. Volunteers are needed to help run the LGROW concourse table. More info is available at: lgrow.org/events



GRAND RIVER WATER FESTIVAL

The Grand River Water Festival is on June 23 from 12 pm - 9 pm at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids. The festival is a free-of-charge, day long Music driven Environmental Festival. Volunteers are needed at the LGROW booth that day. More info is available at: lgrow.org/events



GVMC

SUMMER TIPS

MEASURE



Always follow directions to use proper amounts of fertilizer and herbicides. Too much can wash off your property into storm drains and can harm aquatic life.

REUSE



Keep grass at least 3" to promote healthy root growth. Dispose of clippings in a compost pile or yard waste bag so they don't wash into storm drains and then our streams. Clippings also make great natural mulch!

CARE



Have a spill kit handy to immediately clean up any spills in your driveway like gas or oil leaks. Report any major spills at www.LGROW.org/report

CONSERVE



Watch your watering! Lawns only need about 1" of rain per week. Overwatering can result in runoff, which can carry fertilizers and herbicides along with it. Avoid watering during mid-day.

CLEANUP



Get involved in a local stream or neighborhood cleanup. Check the event calendar at www.LGROW.org to find a cleanup near you or plan your own!

WASH



Wash cars at commercial car washes, where wash water is connected to sanitary sewers and treated. At home, wash your car on the grass, not the driveway, so that soapy water doesn't wash into storm drains.

Visit www.LGROW.org
for more information

Your Local Watershed and You:

What can you do to help protect your watershed?

Do you know what a watershed is? Did you know you are in a watershed right now?

Think of a giant glass bowl. Now picture a drop of water hitting the rim of the bowl, sliding down the side, and finally resting on the bottom of the bowl. Each drop of water that hits the rim will follow the same routine – down the side to the bottom. The bottom of the bowl eventually fills with those water drops. This is a small scale demonstration of a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that

drains into the same body of water, whether it's a stream, river, lake, or ocean. All of the land that drains into the Grand

River, also referred to as the Grand River Basin, represents a subwatershed of the Lake Michigan Basin. To find out which subwatershed you live in, enter your address in the **Lower Grand River Watershed Map** at LGROW.org.



Why Should You Care?

When it rains, the water that isn't soaked back into the ground is called stormwater. Stormwater runs off of impervious surfaces, like concrete driveways and asphalt-paved streets, then eventually into the Grand River. Unfortunately, stormwater can carry a lot of harmful waste on its way to our lakes and streams – gas and oil from parking lots, excess fertilizer from your lawn, pet waste, and various other pollutants. These pollutants can end up in the lakes, rivers, and streams in which we fish, play, and swim.



What Can You Do?

You can help reduce the pollutants entering our waterways and their negative impact on our environment in many ways, from picking up after your pet to installing a rain barrel on your property. For a full list of activities to prevent stormwater pollution in the Lower Grand River Watershed, visit the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds' **Information and Education Page** at LGROW.org.

Share, Explore, Protect...

Your Local Watershed and You:

How You Can Help Reduce Pollution Entering The Grand River.

Stormwater is rain water that isn't soaked into the ground during a rain event. As stormwater passes over impervious surfaces like streets and parking lots, it picks up pollutants such as oil and grease from parking lots and roadways, excess fertilizer from lawns, and pet waste. Locally, this stormwater is not treated; rather it is discharged to the Grand River and its tributaries via storm sewer systems and drainage ditches. Find out where stormwater from your property goes by using the **Lower Grand River Watershed Map** at **LGRW.org**.

Here are a few ways YOU can reduce stormwater pollution from entering the storm sewer system in your community:

- Reduce stormwater by planting rain gardens and using rain barrels in your gardens to prevent water from leaving your property.
- Keep storm drains near your home clear of litter by disposing of trash and recyclables in proper containers.
- Collect yard waste to prevent grass clippings and leaves from clogging the storm sewer system.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn before a rain storm, use only the manufacturer's recommendations, and sweep up excess fertilizer on hard surfaces like sidewalks, driveways, and roadways.
- Ensure that soiled water and other wastes from car washing practices do not enter the storm sewer system by washing your car on grass or gravel, rather than your driveway. Better yet, take your vehicles to a commercial car wash that sends wash water through the sanitary sewer.
- Be Septic Smart! Keep your septic system maintained to protect your family's drinking water and reduce the risk of contaminating local water.
- Properly dispose of any pet waste in a closed trash receptacle. Pet waste is raw sewage and contains harmful bacteria, easily transported to water through stormwater.
- Be conscious in closing lids on dumpsters and outdoor trash cans.



For more ways to protect the Lower Grand River Watershed, visit the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds' Information and Education Page at LGRW.org.

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