

The City's Stormwater Program Plan consists of six major elements, referred to as "minimum control measures," or MCMs for short. Specific measures to implement the MCMs are called "best management practices," or BMPs. These BMPs are part of a comprehensive plan to reduce pollutants discharged from the City's storm drainage system. Did you know that most of Alexandria's streams exceed Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform and/or E. coli? Pet waste left of the ground, wildlife, leaking pipes and illicit connections may contribute to this impairment.

### How can I get involved?

You can get involved by (1) learning how to keep our streams clean by preventing pollution (2) participating in City-sponsored public hearings and input sessions, and (3) volunteering for cleanup events. Sign up for Environmental **eNews** for volunteer opportunities and to learn more about Eco-City Alexandria initiatives.

[www.eneews.alexandriava.gov](http://www.eneews.alexandriava.gov)

## 6 Minimum Control Measures of Stormwater Management Plan

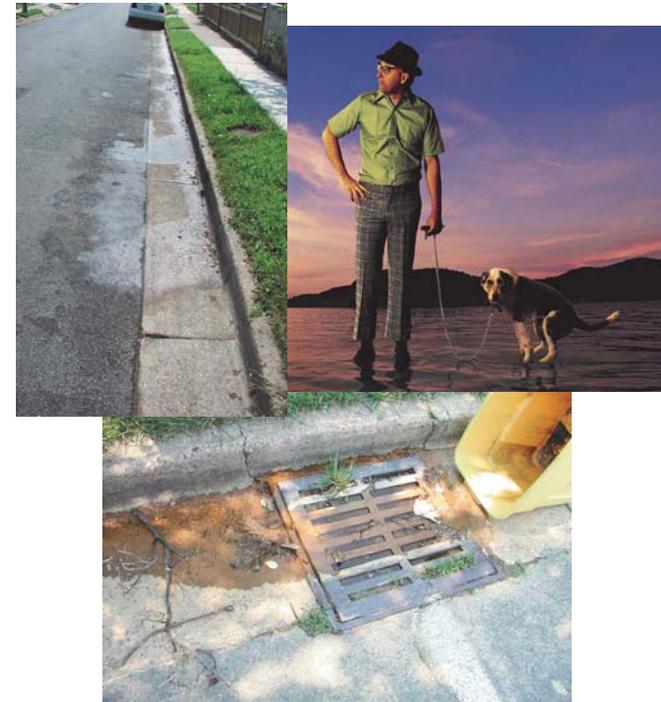
1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping



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## Every Day Activities Can Contribute to Stormwater Pollution



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# Stormwater Management Program Plan

## The Stormwater Management Plan

**Public Education and Outreach:** The City engages in a range of public education and outreach activities to inform and further educate the public and businesses about the impacts of stormwater on local streams. A focus of this efforts providing information on steps that citizens can take to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution.

**Public Involvement and Participation:** Public involvement and participation is an essential part of the City's Plan. The City provides annual updates to the Environmental Policy Commission and provides an electronic form on City's web site for citizens to report pollution problems.

**Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:** By law, only stormwater is allowed in the stormwater system. As part of its program, the City has mapped all stormwater outfalls and developed a program to identify and eliminate illegal connections to the system.

**Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control:** The City administers a local Erosion and Sediment Control Program to reduce stormwater pollution from construction sites. The City also requires all developers to control construction site waste such as litter generated by job site workers and equipment waste materials such as used parts and oils.

**Post-Construction Storm Water Management:** The City's Chesapeake Bay

Preservation Ordinance reduces pollution from development. Examples of stormwater controls include vegetative buffers, sand filters, and bioretention filters. Low impact development (LID) and Environmental Site Design (ESD) are techniques to mimic natural site characteristics and reduce impervious surfaces.

**Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping:** The City is required to ensure that government operations are conducted in a manner that protects water quality. In addition to revising standard operating procedures, the City will develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for many City facilities.

## Why manage stormwater?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2004 National Water Quality Inventory, approximately 44% of surveyed U.S. rivers and streams are considered impaired because they do not meet basic water quality standards. In Alexandria, Four Mile Run, Hunting Creek/Cameron Run, and Holmes Run are considered impaired due to bacteria by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. A leading source of this impairment is polluted stormwater. This pollution come comes from different activities that are part of our daily routine. Almost every street, lawn, driveway, rooftop, and parking lot in Alexandria is connected to a storm drain. When it rains, the stormwater mixes with spilled motor oil, pet waste, pesticides, paint, grease, and litter. This polluted stormwater is discharged directly to our local streams, which eventually flow to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.



Storm drains are neighborhood entry points to the stormwater system.

## What are NPDES requirements?

In response to the growing threat of stormwater pollution to water quality, Congress enacted the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the federal Clean

Water Act. NPDES requires local governments to obtain a permit to discharge from the storm sewer system to Waters of the U.S. In Virginia, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is responsible for enforcing these NPDES requirements through the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. Under this program, each regulated government operating a municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) must develop an MS4 Stormwater Management Program Plan to control pollution to the "maximum extent practicable."



Underground pipes eventually discharge stormwater to a local stream. If the stormwater is polluted, our local streams are also polluted.



All streams in Alexandria drain to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Each year, millions of dollars are spent to clean and restore the Bay.