



## Municipally Owned Vs. Operated Stormwater BMPs: What's The Difference?

The term 'municipally owned' are stormwater best management practices (BMPs) owned by the municipality and likely located on municipally owned property. Also referred to as public BMPs, these BMPs are required to be maintained by the municipality.

The term 'municipally operated' is used to define any privately owned BMPs the municipality has maintenance authority on (e.g., long term maintenance agreement, easement agreement, etc.).

With maintenance authority on private BMPs, the municipality can ensure the private BMP is being inspected and maintained. Typically, private BMP owners should be inspecting their BMP per the long-term maintenance agreement. However, to ensure this is occurring, it's vital the municipality verifies this by requesting reports.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



Photo Credit: City of Green Bay

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## City Of Green Bay: Stormwater Utility

Across the United States, municipalities are embracing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) as a powerful tool to enhance water quality and fulfill regulatory obligations. Beyond its proven benefits for water quality, GSI offers a host of co-benefits that positively impact communities. Additional benefits include beautifying neighborhoods, reducing localized flooding, reducing the heat island effect and recharging ground water. While GSI projects are becoming more common on public projects, increasing the use of GSI on private residential properties can be difficult.

The city of Green Bay's Stormwater Utility helps support eligible GSI projects on residential properties by offering low-interest loans to property owners. The revolving loan fund replenishes itself as loans are repaid, ensuring perpetual support for GSI initiatives. The city's Public Works Department administers the program, driving sustainable change.

The typical loan amount is \$10,000 with an interest rate of 2%. Eligible projects include permeable surfacing approved sidewalks and driveways, rain garden design and professional installation and stormwater planters. Projects that demonstrate storm water infiltration, peak flow reduction and/or improved water quality of storm water runoff are given highest priority.

By integrating GSI into public and private spaces, the city hopes to increase resiliency, improve local waterways and take a step toward a greener future. For more information on this program, see the [Green Stormwater Initiatives link on the City of Green Bay's Green Stormwater webpage.](#)

# Spring Cleaning: Stormwater Best Management Practices

'April showers bring May flowers' indicates spring is on its way, and so is the rain. Therefore, it is a crucial time to implement a variety of different 'spring cleaning' BMPs to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollutants in your municipality's runoff in time for heavy rain events. Below are just a few examples of spring-cleaning activities:

## Structural Stormwater BMP Inspections (retention ponds, infiltration basins, etc.)

Snowmelt events can carry debris and litter that may clog stormwater inlet structures. Maintaining BMP inlet structures so they are clear is important to avoid flooding and to ensure the stormwater BMP is functioning as designed. Inspecting stormwater BMPs after the winter season will help make sure the municipality's stormwater BMPs are ready for the rain. As a reminder, the MS4 Permit requires stormwater BMPs to be inspected at least once every five years.

## Street Sweeping

When the snow melts, this can leave behind debris and other pollutants that have accumulated over the winter months. Street sweeping shortly after the snow melts or increasing the frequency of street sweeping during this timeframe can help get this material off the streets before a big rain event washes it to the nearest stormwater drains.

## Spring Cleanup Events

Hosting spring cleanup volunteer events to pick up trash and other debris in your community helps keep our environment clean and assists in BMP function, but it can also count as a public involvement or education activity. Several cleanup events were held this past Earth Day (April 20, 2024) across the state of Wisconsin. For example, Milwaukee Riverkeeper held its [spring cleanup event](#) at more than 90 locations across the Milwaukee River Basin. Madison Parks also held an [Earth Day Challenge](#) to clean up local parks. In the La Crosse area, there was a [community river cleanup](#) on May 11, 2024.

## Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Clean-Up Event

On May 4, the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance hosted the Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup 2024. This annual endeavor extends an open invitation to volunteers of all ages, emphasizing community engagement and environmental stewardship. Dozens of local donors help make this the largest volunteer trash clean up event in Northeast Wisconsin.

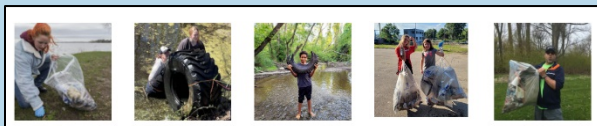
The event brings in around 1,600 volunteers to more than 65 cleanup locations along the Fox River, Wolf River, Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winnebago, Lake Winneconne, the East River, the bay of Green Bay and more. Last year's event resulted in 7,431 pounds of trashed removed from areas in and around local waterways.

This included 964 bags of trash, 234 bags of recyclable material, 21 tires, 1,529 plastic drinking straws, 2,068 plastic retail bags and 125 syringes.

Volunteers were provided with t-shirts and everything they needed to make the cleanup a success, including gloves, trash grabbers and bags. After the cleanup, a picnic was held at Pierce Park in Appleton where participants enjoyed lunch, music, bounce houses, face painters, raffles and more.

Check out their [webpage](#) for more information on this event and other exciting initiatives.

Photo Credit: Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance



## Plowing Snow: Damage To Landscaping

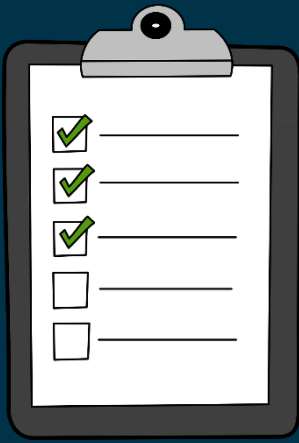
As the snow melts, damages to landscaping may begin to show along public walkways, parks and other areas kept clear of snow. These unstable areas can create a muddy mess but could also run off into nearby waterways or stormwater drains.

Stabilizing these areas to ensure vegetation will grow back is a beneficial spring-cleaning BMP that could be implemented.

Other BMPs, such as clearly identifying the boundaries of lawn areas when the ground is covered in snow, can help avoid this issue in the first place. For example, reflective snowplow markers or large bright stakes could help outline the edges, landscape and plant materials. However, be sure to install these makers before the ground is frozen and the first anticipated snowfall.



Photo Credit: [Winter Lawn Tips: Snow Plow Damage](#) ([nutrilawn.com](#))



## Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Summer Edition?

We want to hear about your municipality's success stories and practical procedures.

Please reach out to Wisconsin DNR stormwater engineer with stories to include in upcoming editions:

Chris Linskens

[Christopher.Linskens@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Christopher.Linskens@wisconsin.gov)



# Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

## MS4 General MS4 Permit Expiration

The MS4 General Permit expired on April 30, 2024. Though the MS4 General Permit will not be reissued by May 1, the permit will be administratively extended since all MS4 General Permittees reapplied for permit coverage with their fourth year MS4 Annual Report submittal. MS4 General Permittees should continue to implement current permit conditions until the next permit is issued. If you have questions, please contact your regional stormwater specialist.

## DNR Awards \$6 Million In Grants To Help Restore And Protect Wisconsin's Surface Water

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced approximately \$6 million in grant funding to lake organizations, nonprofit organizations and municipal and county governments throughout Wisconsin. Funding, which includes Healthy Lakes and Rivers grants as well as support for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Lake Monitoring and Protection Network programs, will be used to help restore and protect the state's surface water resources in 2024 and beyond. The [FY24 Surface Water Grants Proposed Funding List](#) can be found on [the DNR's Surface Water webpage](#).

## Wisconsin DNR 2022 Water Conditions List

The [2022 Water Condition Lists](#) may be used to check the receiving water status for both the impaired waters list and restoration waters list section of a total maximum daily load.

## Save The Date: Wisconsin Stormwater Week 2024

The second annual Wisconsin Stormwater Week will be held on Sept. 21-29, 2024! Check back soon to learn more and discover [Wisconsin Stormwater Week events](#) in your area for 2024.