

What's Going On In Our Corner? Southeast Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



The Importance Of A Stormwater BMP Inventory

Developing and maintaining a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) inventory is a useful way to organize public (MS4-owned) and privately owned stormwater BMPs within your community.

It is important to list the location and description of the type of BMP (e.g., wet pond) and the year constructed within the inventory. Additionally, the inventory should include information on whether an operation and maintenance plan describing the BMP's inspection procedures (e.g., inspection schedule) and record drawings exist for each BMP.

Not only do BMP inventories keep stormwater BMP records organized, but they can also be used as a tracking mechanism for the inspection and maintenance of BMPs. For example, a community may include another column in its inventory with the date the BMP was last inspected or when maintenance was last completed.

Additionally, some communities also use BMP inventories to keep track of long-term maintenance agreements (LTMAs) on required privately owned BMPs to ensure private BMP owners are inspecting and maintaining their BMP.



Bioswale along Menlo Boulevard. / Photo Credit: Village of Shorewood

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Village Of Shorewood: Green Infrastructure

In recent years, the village of Shorewood has focused extensively on committing resources to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

In addition to supporting a robust stormwater education program through the Shorewood Waters Project, the village evaluates its proposed infrastructure projects to identify and evaluate green infrastructure (GI) practices that might be incorporated into the design and construction.

During the engineering design phase of planned infrastructure projects, the village's consulting engineer conducts an analysis to identify GI alternatives and determine the feasibility of including identified practices in the proposed project based on cost, environmental impact and other factors.

Covering approximately 1.5 square miles, the village of Shorewood is one of Wisconsin's most densely populated communities.

Because of the population density, most neighborhoods have limited options to incorporate GI in the public right-of-way.

In the 2023 and 2024 sewer improvement projects, the village utilized MMSD Green Solutions funding to incorporate bioswales. In this year's project, the bioswales on N. Downer Avenue were intentionally located to create a curb extension that enhances safety for pedestrians crossing this busy street.



Bioswale along Downer Avenue. /
Photo Credit: Village of Shorewood

Winter Is Coming: Are Construction Sites In Your Community Ready?

Everyone knows Wisconsin has four seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall. However, Wisconsinites know there are plenty more seasons in between! After winter comes fool's spring, then a second winter, followed by another false spring, then a third winter. And when you think winter is finally over and spring is on the way, mud season starts.

Ideally, all construction sites will be seeded with fall or winter seed mixes and covered with erosion matting for winter shutdown. However, with more frequent freeze-thaw cycles becoming commonplace for Wisconsin winters, construction sites are also operating year-round. Continued construction, in combination with changing weather patterns and increased winter rain, can quickly result in wet, muddy, and erosive conditions that are challenging to correct when there isn't summer heat to help dry soggy areas.

As a result, it's important that MS4 Permittees communicate with construction site operators in their community to ensure they have an adequate plan for winter. It is recommended to start communicating with sites early in the fall (i.e., right now!) to ensure seeding happens in the appropriate timeframe or that sites have the appropriate erosion control materials to get them through the winter.

Below are two winter-specific site management strategies. However, if your community has more strategies, tips and tricks, or stories of hard lessons learned, please let us know so we may share!

- **Full winter shutdown:** Seed and stabilize the site completely in accordance with DNR Tech Standards. If properly done, all other BMPs can be removed and re-installed before work starts again in the spring.
- **Minimized work area:** For sites that will continue work, defining priority work areas and avoiding 'riskier' practices such as large-scale grading and stockpiling can help the site be successful in the winter. Note: these sites should seed and stabilize all erodible areas outside of these footprints. All other BMPs must remain and be repaired regularly.

Village Of Butler And Waukesha County

The village of Butler is excited to partner with Waukesha County in 2025 in a joint effort to stabilize the streambank and improve the water quality of the Menomonee River, which flows through the village's Frontier Park. Over time, this streambank has experienced significant erosion and undercutting. The village explained that measures need to be taken to help prevent further deterioration of the streambanks.

This project will be accomplished by grading 150 feet of streambank and creating a boulder toe with floodplain benching in high-energy locations to protect the streambank against erosion while reducing flooding potential. These items have more than a 20-year lifespan and will greatly help buffer the banks from the river's flow. Modeling done by Waukesha County shows that annual reductions of 16 pounds of total phosphorous (equivalent to 4,800 pounds of

Algae) and 16,000 pounds of suspended solids will result from the project. In a show of intergovernmental cooperation, the resulting reduction in pollutants and credits generated by the project will be shared between the Village and the County through a Water Quality Trade Agreement. The Village and County are finalizing the proposal with support from WDNR staff.

The village explained that this project would not have been possible without the hard work and planning of the Waukesha County Land Resources Division and its contractors, who have helped lead the charge. The village and county hope this will be a prime example of what can happen through intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships, sparking other similar projects for communities in the region.

As-Builts For Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs

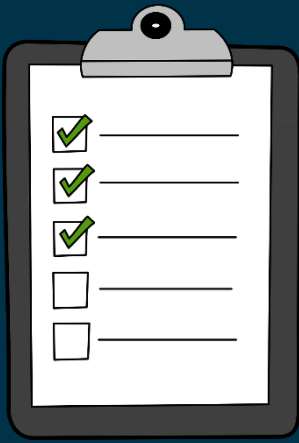
As-builts (i.e., record drawings) reflect how a BMP was built.

While the MS4 permit does not require MS4 Permittees to obtain as-builts, many MS4s do, as this is useful in determining if the BMP was built as designed. If not, this may influence inspection and maintenance requirements, provide a different level of pollutant reduction than intended or require alterations.

Some MS4 Permittees also use as-builts to determine if BMP maintenance is needed before permit termination. For example, if excess sediment is discharged into a wet pond during construction, the permanent pool may be too shallow. Thus, MS4s will require maintenance of the BMP before terminating the permit.

So, if your community does not require as-builts currently, perhaps this is something to consider.





Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Winter Edition?

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

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

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Or

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Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

NEW: Waterways and Wetland Question and Complaint Form

The DNR Waterways program has developed a new tool to streamline customer service. The public can now use the [Waterway and Wetland Question and Complaint Form online](#) to submit general permitting questions and complaints for potential violations.

The Waterways program regulates a large variety of activities that may impact wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes, such as:

- Piers, boat shelters, riprap, fish habitat structures and other structures
- Bridges, culverts, fords and temporary crossings
- Dredging
- Stream realignment and enclosure
- Ponds within 500 feet of a waterway
- Discharges of fill material in wetlands

Upcoming Erosion Control Compliance Training (NASECA) Dec.11-12, 2024

NASECA Erosion Control Compliance Training will be held at Holiday Inn Pewaukee-Milwaukee West in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Registration is coming soon; please visit NASECA's [Events & Training webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming Wisconsin Salt Wise Trainings

This free training is for winter maintenance professionals who remove snow, apply road salt or maintain snow removal equipment. Learn how using the right amount of salt can save time, money and our waters. Visit [Winter Salt Certification \(wisaltwise.com\)](http://wisaltwise.com) for information on upcoming training opportunities.

Wisconsin Land & Water Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters training

Phil Gaebler (City of Madison) and Christal Campbell (Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership) explain how timely street leaf removal before the rain can help keep our waters clean. Watch their training, [Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters, on YouTube](#).

DNR Magazine Welcomes Fall

Plan your fall adventure with help from the latest issue of [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine. Cover stories about hunting will get you ready for the season, including [duck hunting details](#) and a colorful [guide to ducks](#) you might see in the state. There's also a story highlighting efforts to help everyone "[Join the Hunt](#)," especially through mentoring efforts and access to public lands.