

MS4 General Permit: Stormwater Systems Mapping and Inspections



The new Minnesota MS4 General Permit, issued in November of 2020, requires permittees to map and inspect stormwater systems within their jurisdictions.

MAPPING

You must develop and maintain a map of your stormwater system that shows:

Pipes: The location and direction of flow for all stormwater pipes that are 12-inches in diameter or larger

Outfalls: Where stormwater leaves your system to enter a public water or another entity's system

- All outfalls should be assigned a unique identification number and labeled with geographic coordinates

BMPs: Structural stormwater best management practices such as stormwater ponds, infiltration basins, and bioretention basins. The map should include:

- All structural BMPs that are part of your MS4; and
- BMPs owned and operated by other entities that were built after Aug. 1, 2013 or include an executed legal mechanism with the owner that is responsible for long-term maintenance.

All receiving waters. Lakes, rivers, and streams

In addition, you must maintain a written or mapped inventory of facilities you own or operate that contribute to stormwater pollution. This may include:

Waste management:

- Landfills; recycling; composting; and solid waste handling and transfer
- Hazardous waste disposal, handling and transfer

Parks and recreation:

- Parks and public golf courses
- Public swimming pools
- Public parking lots

Public works:

- Vehicle and equipment storage and maintenance
- Pesticides, salt, and materials storage
- Public works yards
- Snow storage

Along with creating a map or inventory, you must implement best management practices to prevent or reduce stormwater discharges from the above facilities.



INSPECTIONS

In addition to mapping stormwater systems, you must conduct periodic inspections of your BMPs, stormwater ponds, and outfalls, and repair, replace, and maintain these as needed.

WHEN TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS:

>> **Once a year**

Structural stormwater BMPs

>> **Once every 5 years**

Stormwater ponds and outfalls

More info:

- Some stormwater BMPs may require inspections and maintenance more than once per year.
- If no maintenance or sediment removal is required after two years of inspections, you may reduce inspections to once every two years
- Inspections are only required for outfalls (when it leaves your system to enter a public water or another entity's stormwater system), not every outlet in your system.

Completing maintenance and repairs:

- Ensure that stormwater BMPs and stormwater ponds are functioning properly and in good structural condition.
- Remove sediment and complete other needed maintenance.
- Document a schedule for maintenance that can not be completed within one year.

**For more information on the Minnesota MS4 General Permit, go to:
pca.state.mn.us/water/2020-ms4-general-permit**



MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY