Western New York Stormwater Coalition

A partnership to protect water quality

A number of communities, government agencies and consultants in Western New York have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Coalition is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

The Coalition meets monthly to work collectively on developing and implementing a stormwater management program that complies with New York State’s Phase II Stormwater regulations.

Agencies and Consultants
Erie County DEP/DPW/DSM
Niagara County DPW
SUNY at Buffalo
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Erie & Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation Districts
CRA Infrastructure & Engineering
Hannon Engineering
Malcolm Pirnie
Marquis Engineering
Metzer Civil Engineering
Nussbaum & Clarke, Inc.
Stearns & Wheater—GHD
Wendel Duchscherer
Wm. Schutt & Associates
Stormwater and Illicit Discharge

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. Municipal storm sewer systems—storm drain inlets, pipes, and ditches—collect stormwater runoff and convey it directly to local bodies of water.

Ideally, the stormwater runoff is contaminant free. In reality, it picks up pollutants such as soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, and grease, and debris and transports them to waterways where they are discharged with no treatment. This is stormwater pollution.

Examples of Illicit Discharges

- Sewage
- Laundry Wastewater
- Improper Waste Oil Disposal
- Improper Disposal of Household / Commercial / Industrial Hazardous Waste
- Seepage from Septic Tanks
- Radiator Flushing Waste
- Spills from Roadway Accidents

Signs of Illicit Discharge

The point in a storm sewer system where flow is discharged into a body of water is a storm sewer outfall. It may be a pipe or ditch. If the outfall is flowing when there has been no recent rainfall, this may indicate an illicit discharge. Visible sewage waste, foul odor, suds, or other evidence of contamination, are indicators that an illicit discharge is contaminating the storm sewer system.

Things You Can Do to Protect Water Quality

- Never dump anything down storm drains
- Use fertilizers sparingly; sweep up any excess from driveways, sidewalks, and roads
- Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Pick up after your pet
- Direct downspouts onto grassy areas away from paved surfaces
- Check vehicles for leaks
- Wash vehicles on grass instead of on the driveway, or take your car to the car wash
- Dispose of household waste properly

Remember to keep an eye out for inappropriate amounts of discharge from stormwater pipes, especially during dry weather. This could be a sign that there is a problem, and should be reported to your local municipality.