

Municipalities

should establish best management practices (BMPs) for those employees whose roles impact the region's stormwater system. Among crucial areas of attention are:

- Park and open space management
- Fleet maintenance
- Building maintenance
- Street maintenance
- Construction and site disturbance
- Stormwater system maintenance.

By having employees follow BMPs, municipalities may significantly reduce the discharge of pollutants from parking lots, storage and/or maintenance yards, streets and byways,

salt & sand



storage areas, gardens and parks, fleet yards, and vehicle maintenance facilities.

Chemicals such as motor oil, solvents, and fertilizers that are commonly used in public facilities pose potential threats to our stormwater system, as do seemingly more benign materials such as street sweepings and leaves. Imbedding water protection BMPs into municipal job duties is a crucial part of protecting our area watershed.

Additional Resources

Visit the Green Country Stormwater Alliance web site listed below for more details about proper handling and disposal of waste and wastewater.



Green Country Stormwater Alliance
www.stormwaterok.net

Contact Information

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at

www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLSnw/Complaints/onlncompl.htm and submit it electronically to the DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.



Partially Funded by
Sec. 319(h) Grant

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Refuse hauler (inside, lower left): Photographer, Kevin Chandler, provided courtesy of DOE/NREL. *Bus fleet* (Inside, center): Photographer, Warren Gretz, provided courtesy of DOE/NREL. *Salt granules*: Courtesy photo from the Salt Manufacturers' Association.

Brochure Rev.: 10-26-06



Municipal Best Management Practices that Protect Our Water





A Closer Look at

Municipal Best Management Practices

Park and Open Space Management

Best management practices (BMPs) for the care of park land and open municipal spaces can include:

- Implementing lawn/landscape chemical usage plans to minimize or eliminate runoff of chemicals into the stormwater system
- Incorporating natural, uncut (“no mow”) buffer zones around municipal waterways and encouraging tree growth
- Managing storage areas for leaf and yard waste to prevent runoff from the storage area reaching the stormwater system
- Implementing a leaf recycling program.

Building Maintenance

Municipalities often have multiple sites where materials are stored or transferred and, when improperly managed, may become contaminants to the stormwater system.



Such sites include waste transfer stations, landscaping depots, construction sites, garages, material storage lots, and others. BMPs in the administration of these sites include:

- Handling runoff from waste transfer stations in such a way that it is not released into the stormwater system
- Cleaning and sweeping parking lots to prevent the runoff of automotive drippings and waste
- Properly disposing of construction, remodeling or demolition debris.

Fleet Maintenance

From antifreeze to motor oil to brake fluid, fleets can be potential sources of pollutants to a watershed. And the bigger the fleet, the bigger the potential environmental impact. BMPs in fleet management include:



- Collecting and treating wash/rinse water before discharging it into the *sanitary* sewer; never rinsing it into the stormwater system
- Following a spill-prevention protocol that calls for the immediate containment and treatment of spills
- Using less toxic substances and solutions wherever possible
- Maintaining fueling equipment and employing proper refueling procedures (no “topping off”)
- Reporting and servicing leaking vehicles.

Construction Site Disturbance

Municipalities may minimize the disturbance at construction sites by following post-construction BMPs, which may include:

- Disposing of all waste properly, never burying it or leaving it at the site
- Recycling as many materials as possible, and disposing of the rest appropriately
- Ensuring that all paved surfaces are cleaned, with no solvents or cleaners discharged into the stormwater system
- Stabilizing ground surfaces to prevent erosion by reinforcing unstable soils, protecting slopes, or adopting bioengineering control solutions.

Street Maintenance

Regular street sweeping is among the best of the BMPs for eliminating debris, pollutants, and sediments that might otherwise reach the stormwater system.

Snow removal and road treatment substances are other areas of concern regarding street maintenance. BMPs in addressing these issues include:



- Storing bulk materials well away from the local waterways
- Covering piles of road salt or sand under a tarp or roof to prevent runoff
- Minimizing the application of salt or sand to the fewest times possible
- Collecting runoff from material storage areas.

Stormwater System Maintenance

In spite of best efforts to keep them from the stormwater system, some pollutants and debris do make their way into it. This indicates the need for regular cleaning of storm drains and other parts of the system. Other BMPs include:

- Keeping storm drains unplugged
- Removing excess debris or trash that gathers in ditches or catch basins
- Paying special attention to areas of the system with low flow or grades to ensure that these areas are flushed properly and frequently.