

Municipalities

should establish Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the handling and disposal of materials that can impact the stormwater system. Municipal activities needing special 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 can significantly reduce the discharge of pollutants from parking lots, storage and maintenance yards, streets, *salt & sand* storage areas, parks, playgrounds, fleet yards, and vehicle maintenance facilities.



Strong chemicals such as motor oil, solvents and fertilizers that are commonly used can pose potential threats to water quality. Even such materials as lawn clippings are pollutants. Including water protection BMPs in municipal job duties is an important part of protecting our storm water systems and water quality.

Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



Contact Information:

For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at stormwater@incog.org. For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

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: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24-7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/> and submit it electronically to DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

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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 Municipal Parks and Open Spaces 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.
- Preventing runoff from chemical and landscaping storage areas from entering the stormwater system.
- Implementing a leaf recycling program.

Building Maintenance

Municipal sites where materials are stored and handled include waste transfer stations, landscaping depots, construction sites, vehicle maintenance garages and storage lots. Common BMPs are:



- Preventing runoff from waste transfer stations from entering the stormwater system.
- Cleaning and sweeping parking lots to prevent the runoff of automotive fluids.
- Properly disposing of demolition, remodeling and construction debris.

Fleet Maintenance

Municipal fleet vehicles are sources of chemical pollutants such as antifreeze, motor oil and brake fluid. BMPs include:

- Using drip pans to collect leaks.
- Washing vehicles and equipment in areas not connected to storm drains.
- Using less toxic chemicals.
- Not overfilling during fueling.
- Promptly servicing leaking vehicles.



Construction Site Disturbance

Municipalities can reduce pollution from construction sites by employing BMPs such as:

- Disposing of all wastes promptly to avoid contact with rainfall runoff.
- Implementing sediment and erosion controls such as silt fences and sedimentation basins.
- Storing fuel, solvents, cleaners, paints and other chemicals away from stormwater runoff.
- Using proper concrete washout procedures in designated areas.
- Protecting site exits with grates or large rock to avoid offsite tracking of dirt.

Street Maintenance

Regular street sweeping is one of the best BMPs for keeping pollutants and sediments from entering the storm sewer system. Some common BMPs include:

- Storing bulk materials away from storm drains and out of rainfall.
- Covering storage piles of road salt and sand under a tarp or roof.
- Sweeping streets of salt and sand after a snowfall to prevent contaminated runoff.
- Maintaining roadside vegetation to enhance absorption of street runoff.



Stormwater System Maintenance

Failure to maintain the stormwater system will lead to increased pollution and flooding. Some common BMPs are:

- Keeping storm sewer pipes free of debris.
- Performing regular cleanout of drop inlets and rainfall runoff access points to the storm drains.
- Removing excess vegetation from storm drains and stream channels.
- Removing trash, chemical containers, dead animals and other sources of pollutants at bridge stream crossings.