



Storm Water Permit Program Annual Update

2019

What is the purpose of this annual update?

- To ensure that our community's decision makers and elected officials are informed about our storm water permit activities which took place in 2019.
- This update is required for participation in the St. Clair County NPDES MS4 & Watershed Advisory Groups led by the St. Clair County Health Department.
- As a dues-paying member of this group, we collaborate with 18 St. Clair County municipalities and school districts to share permit costs, implement activities, submit reports, assist with audits and meet federal mandates from the Clean Water Act.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

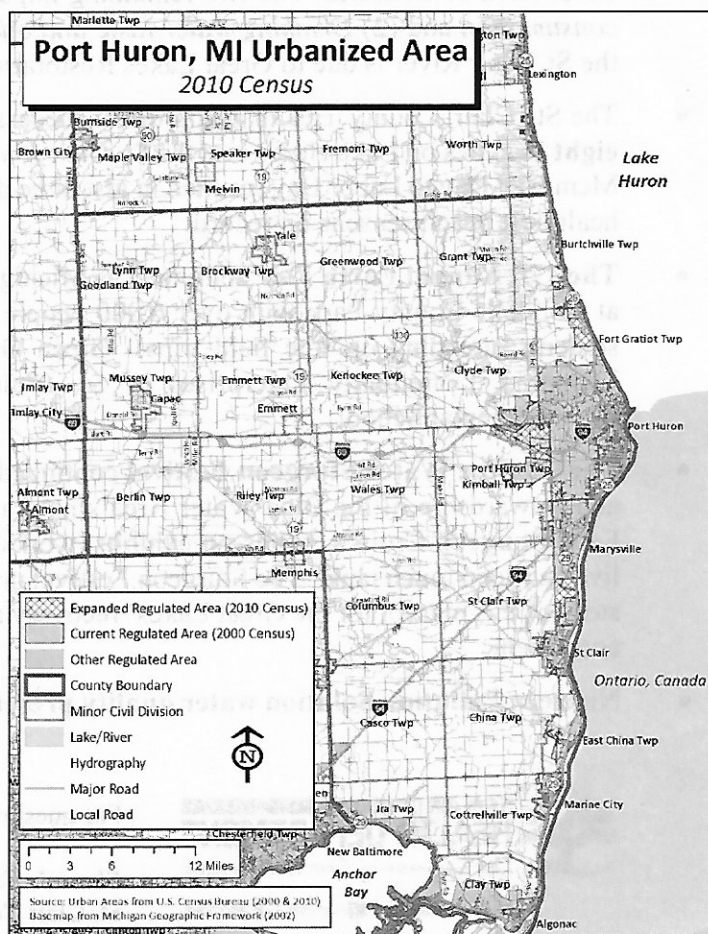
MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Why are we regulated to manage storm water?

- The regulations governing storm water come from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is part of the Federal Clean Water Act to eliminate pollutants entering our waterways. Our storm water permit is administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).
- We are required to demonstrate a reduction in water pollution and improvement of the quality of our waterways. The largest source of water pollution is storm water runoff from urban areas.
- Our community falls within the **urbanized area** (see map). The State has jurisdiction over our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in our urbanized area, which sends storm water to a river or to an adjacent jurisdiction's MS4.

What is required of us for the storm water permit?

- All required activities are listed in our Storm Water Management Plan and in our Progress Report. The activities listed in our Plan and Report are enforced and audited by EGLE. New compliance activities have been issued in our updated NPDES MS4 Individual permit (MI0059528) issued on 12/26/2018.



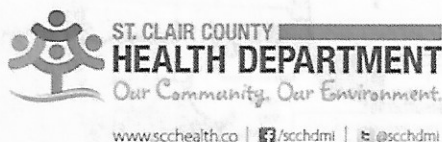
The shaded gold area represents the 18 regulated St. Clair County municipalities and school districts



Storm Water Permit Program Annual Update

2019 Accomplishments

- EGLE issued **storm water permits** to Marine City and St. Clair County with expiration dated for 2023. The communities of Ira Township, Clay Township, and the City of Algonac are in their permit review phase.
- Free **storm water management training** is continually provided to county and municipal Department of Public Works and Parks Departments to acquire pollution prevention training requirements. A **training workshop** was held for Public Works/Parks employees at the September 2019 meeting. Fifteen members attended.
- Spicer Group led **dry weather screening** and **outfall inspections** on county owned storm systems located in the Urbanized Area of St. Clair County. The report will be completed in 2020 and will be available at the St. Clair County Health Department.
- Beginning with 10 impairments two decades ago, only **2 milestones** are left to restore the St. Clair River Area of Concern. The two remaining impairments are: (1) *Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption* and (2) *Drinking water taste and odor concerns*. Progress on restoring the health of the St. Clair River is due to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative federal funding.
- The St. Clair County Health Department successfully completed **water quality monitoring at eight beaches** on Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. Fourteen weeks of continuous sampling from Memorial Day to Labor Day resulted in just three days of closure making it one of St. Clair County's healthiest beach seasons on record.
- **The 17th Annual Earth Fair** continued as Michigan's largest Earth Day event on April 26th & 27th at Goodells County Park with over 6,000 people visiting, 650 trees given to students, and 1,200 students attending on free field trips. Green Guardian Awards were presented to the City of Memphis, Community Enterprises of St. Clair County, Kate's Downtown, and Woodland Developmental School.
- **The 7th Blue Water Sturgeon Festival** continued on June 1st, a 3-day event focused on education and stewardship of the Blue Water Area's natural resources. Festival highlights included Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises, hands-on exhibits, workshops, Native American drum ceremonies, and a live sturgeon touch tank. The Sturgeon Festival provides an exciting setting to learn the fascinating story of this mascot for the Great Lakes' recovery and stewardship of the world's largest freshwater ecosystem.
- Nineteen **Pollution Solution water quality presentations** were given to 550 students at 6 schools.



For questions, please contact:

Sheri J. Faust, Environmental Health Educator
St. Clair County Health Department
Phone: (810) 987-5306
Email: stormwater@stclaircounty.org
Web: www.sccwater.org