Quarterly News & Updates

October 15, 2026

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (MCM 3)
Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping (MCM 6)

Preparing for Winter: Protecting Water Quality in Madison, Indiana

Duane "Duey" O'Neal
Code Enforcement Officer & MS4 Coordinator, City of Madison



Clean water is essential to our community, but pollutants can enter our streams, rivers, and storm sewer system in ways that are not always obvious. One important part of protecting local waterways is the MS4 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program.

As winter approaches, Madison's Street Department begins preparing for snow and ice events. This preparation is an important part of keeping streets and residents safe, but it also requires careful attention to stormwater and water quality.

Winter maintenance activities may include inspecting and servicing snowplows and other equipment, preparing salt and other deicing materials, and ensuring that equipment is ready to respond quickly when winter weather arrives. Deicing materials are necessary for public safety, but excessive amounts of salt and other materials can enter storm drains and waterways through runoff.

The Street Department takes steps to properly manage these materials and equipment. Keeping salt and other deicing products properly stored, maintaining equipment to prevent leaks, and using materials appropriately can help reduce the number of pollutants that reach the stormwater system.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars - the 2027 workshop and annual meeting are scheduled for **April 12-13, 2027.** The annual meeting will be held at Embassy Suites Conference Center in Plainfield, IN.

IDEM Updates

Are you signed up to receive updates from IDEM? Subscribe to IDEM updates **here**.

MS4 Partnership Highlight

Elkhart County's **Pay Dirt IN-field** 2026 brought together MS4 representatives, contractors, engineers, conservation professionals, educators, and students at Hess Family Farm for hands-on education focused on erosion control, stormwater management, best management practices (BMP) installation, and water quality. Participants were able to see construction and agricultural conservation practices demonstrated in the field, reinforcing the connection between MCM 3 and MCM 4 requirements and the practical implementation of stormwater BMPs. The event emphasized education before regulation and provided an opportunity for the stormwater community to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and build relationships across the agricultural, construction, and municipal sectors. Hosted by the Elkhart County Soil &

Residents can help, too. When clearing snow from driveways and sidewalks, avoid pushing snow, salt, or other materials directly into storm drains. Remember that the material placed on the ground during winter can eventually be carried by melting snow and rain into the stormwater system.

Winter maintenance and stormwater protection can work together. By using good management practices and paying attention to where snow, salt, and runoff go, the city and its residents can help keep our streets safe while protecting our local waterways.

Preventing illicit discharges is a shared responsibility. Through regular inspections, prompt investigation, public education, and cooperation from residents and businesses, our community can reduce pollution and help protect the quality of our local waterways.

If in doubt, keep pollutants out of the storm drain and report suspected illicit discharges to your local MS4 program.

Seasonal Upkeep: The Case for Tackling MCM 6 in Colder Weather

Liz Carter, CPESC
MS4 Program Coordinator, City of Bloomington



It's Fall! That means it is time to think about pumpkin spice lattes, sweater weather, and, of course, Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 6!

Why Fall - Facility SWPPP Inspections
Now that construction season is winding down, we can think about those pesky facility SWPPP inspections we have been putting off. In Bloomington, we spend much of the spring and summer focused on active construction. Fall gives us a fantastic time to crack open the SWPPPs we have on file for review, update them as needed, and schedule inspections. As a reminder, quarterly SWPPP inspections of municipally-owned facilities are required by IDEM, but only one of those quarterly inspections must be conducted by the MS4 Coordinator.

Bloomington is planning its roughly 20 facility SWPPP inspections to take place in Quarters 3 and 4 (July - December), with an emphasis on September and October. This gives plenty of time to complete all inspections and discuss SWPPP document changes with facility-specific staff before entering the holiday season.

Water Conservation District, Pay Dirt continues to demonstrate how collaborative education and field-based training can strengthen stormwater programs and improve water quality throughout our communities.

Sponsorships

We would not be where we are today without the generous support of our sponsors.

Are you interested in being a sponsor? Find more information **here**!

Save the Date!

4/12/2027 - IN MS4 Partnership Workshop

4/13/2027 - IN MS4 Partnership Annual Meeting

Resources

MS4 Home | Indiana | IN MS4 Partnership

IDEM: Stormwater Permitting: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

US EPA: Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Sources

Prepping for Winter - Leaves from Fall
Bloomington stormwater crews spend much of the spring focused on heavy rain events, the summer doing maintenance projects, and by fall, they begin to focus on fall and winter weather.

The City of Bloomington shifted policy a few years ago to no longer pick up residents' leaves curbside. Instead, residents are encouraged to mulch-mow their leaves into their yards. Some residents have taken on the task of managing their leaves with gusto while others are still unaware of the policy change. But what about the leaves that are not managed by residents?

Street tree leaves, and any others that have not been claimed by residents, inevitably end up in the roadside gutter. These leaves flow towards storm inlets, which block flow and lead to flooding. This effect is worsened when leaves are not observable because they are covered with snow. Our solution is twofold: deploy storm crews and engage citizens.

While our storm crews spend much of the fall season uncovering inlets, the MS4 program engages citizens to "Adopt a Drain". The **Adopt-a-Drain** program asks for minimal, but periodic, maintenance of City-owned inlets to be conducted, and reported, by residents. This helps alleviate the work load on storm crews while providing residents with a sense of ownership in their community.

In Conclusion
Tackling MCM 6 during the colder months leaves MS4 operators free to focus on active construction and, hopefully, post-construction during the warmer times of the year. Closing out the year with MCM 6 also means ending 2026 with a feeling of accomplishment. Won't it feel great to fill in the Annual Report in 2027 with all of the wonderful MCM 6 work that you did?

Indiana MS4 Partnership | PO Box 325 | Connersville, IN 47331 US

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