



# 6 STORMWATER FACTS

on the 25th Anniversary of

# MS4

## Quarter 2

*The Tartan Crossing redevelopment project combines surface water treatment with a stunning aesthetic centerpiece at an abandoned mall site in Oakdale, Minnesota.*

SEH will be publishing quarterly stormwater facts. These facts were included in the NPDES Storm Water Report that is submitted yearly to comply with the criteria for Small MS4 communities in North Dakota. **It's been 25 years since the Environmental Protection Agency began the Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit program in November of 1990.**

The NPDES MS4 permit is designed to **protect our rivers, lakes and streams** from polluted stormwater runoff. In honor of the anniversary, we connected with SEH MS4 specialist April Ryan, PE, who shared some key facts about stormwater, pollution, permitting and MS4.

**1 There are many stormwater pollution culprits. Significant stormwater pollutants include:**

- Sediment
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from motor vehicles
- Fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns, gardens, roadways, etc.
- Viruses and bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems
- Litter and trash from motorists, pedestrians and businesses

---

**2 MS4's were born out of the Clean Water Act.** MS4s are regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit program. The NPDES permit was enacted in 1972 as part of the pivotal Clean Water Act.

---

**3 There are over 7,450 MS4s in the country.** As populations continue to grow, so will the number of MS4s.

**4 Population and location determine the regulated MS4s.** Although large communities are generally associated with the MS4 program, a regulated MS4 can include smaller public entities located in urbanized areas and/or located near specific water resources.

**5 There are two kinds of MS4s.** Phase I, issued in 1990, requires medium and large cities or certain counties with populations of 100,000 or more to obtain NPDES permit coverage for their stormwater discharges. There are approximately 750 Phase I MS4s in the United States. Phase II, issued in 1999, requires regulated small MS4s in urbanized areas, as well as small MS4s outside the urbanized areas that are designated by the permitting authority, to obtain NPDES permit coverage for their stormwater discharges. There are approximately 6,700 Phase II MS4s in the United States.

**6 Permitting is different for Phase I vs. Phase II MS4s.** Each regulated MS4 is required to develop and implement a stormwater management program (SWMP) to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges. Generally, Phase I MS4s are covered by individual permits and Phase II MS4s are covered by a general permit.

This summary is part of a larger write-up originally published on November 24th, 2015 entitled *25 Stormwater Facts on the 25th Anniversary of MS4*.

See more at: <http://www.sehinc.com/news/25-stormwater-facts-25th-anniversary-ms4#sthash.sunVbv4L.dpuf> or visit our website at [www.sehinc.com](http://www.sehinc.com)

*A stormwater feature slows down fast-moving water flows while filtering debris in Oakdale, Minnesota.*

**6 STORMWATER FACTS**  
on the 25th Anniversary of  
**MS4**

