

Village of Skokie, Illinois

Stormwater Management Plan

Introduction

The Village of Skokie has a General Permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for discharges from its municipal separate storm sewer system. The General Permit requires the Village to develop, implement, and enforce a stormwater management program designed to prevent and reduce pollution from its storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable. This document describes the pollution prevention practices that comprise the Village's stormwater management program.

Public Education and Outreach

- Newsletter - The Village publishes a newsletter that is mailed to all residents approximately nine times per year. Copies of the newsletters are also available on the Village website. The newsletter periodically includes articles on topics such as: the impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies; the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff; the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste; and green infrastructure.
- Speaking Engagements – The Village Forester talks with school-aged children and neighborhood groups about the benefits of trees in urban areas, which include reducing stormwater runoff. These speaking engagements typically occur several times per year. Public Works Department staff occasionally speaks at seminars on topics related to stormwater management.
- Public Service Announcement – The Village runs a cable television segment that explains the runoff control program. This segment runs on the channel's daily loop and the frequency is increased in the spring.
- Community Events – The Village provides the public with literature on stormwater management topics each year at events such as: the Village Open House, the Spring Greening Event, the Arbor Day Event, and the Festival of Cultures.
- Website - The Village maintains a website with information about the Village government, information about Village services, and upcoming events. This website also includes educational information for the public regarding stormwater pollution prevention, which is updated periodically.

Public Involvement and Participation

- Stream Clean-Up Events - Each year, the Village's Improvement and Beautification Committee coordinates with the Friends of the Chicago River to organize a clean-up event along the North Shore Channel.
- Adopt-a-Highway – Community groups and other organizations are encouraged to adopt a section of the Village's roadways. Litter is then collected in the adopted section at least twice per year. Removing litter from the roadway prevents the litter from being washed into the sewer system.

- Resident Surveys – The Village solicits feedback on various topics, including stormwater management, using resident surveys.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- Village Code – Article I, Section 54-3 prohibits a person from polluting any watercourse and Article II, Section 110-48 prohibits the disposal of any sewage, debris, or other polluted waters into any natural outlet within the Village.
- Storm Sewer System Map – The Village has a GIS-based map of the entire storm sewer system, which is used to trace suspicious discharges to their source. This map is updated whenever the storm sewer system is modified by a Village project or by private development.
- Resident Reporting – Residents can report instances of pollution or suspected pollution by contacting the Village’s illicit discharge hotline at (800)332-3867.
- Detection – Village staff inspects the sewer system for evidence of illicit discharges while performing routine operation and maintenance activities. Residential and commercial buildings are inspected for cross-connections by state certified plumbing inspectors during permit reviews and routine inspections.
- Source Removal – The Village’s response to illicit discharges depends on the source of the discharge. In most cases, property owners are notified of the need to eliminate an illicit discharge. In the case of emergency spills or incidents of hazardous material dumping, the Village’s Fire Department responds, with assistance from a multi-community Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, when necessary.
- Program Evaluation and Assessment – The policies and procedures of the Village’s Public Works Department are under the authoritative review of the American Public Works Association’s accreditation program.

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

- Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago enforces the Watershed Management Ordinance throughout Cook County. Article 4 of this Ordinance addresses the reduction in pollutants in stormwater runoff from regulated land disturbing activity. It states that appropriate erosion and sediment control practices must be utilized on all regulated development sites, and waste generated as a result of site development must be managed properly. Article 10 allows for the inspection of regulated development sites.
- Village Code – Article IV of the Village Code is the regulatory mechanism used by the Village to require erosion and sediment controls on construction sites. The Village reviews proposed site plans prior to issuing permits for development. Ongoing projects are inspected regularly to ensure conformance with the approved site plan. Insufficient erosion and sediment control measures are addressed promptly.

Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Re-Development

- Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago enforces the Watershed Management Ordinance throughout Cook County. Article 5 of this Ordinance addresses the volume and rate of runoff from regulated development sites. Article 9 requires a maintenance plan for the perpetual maintenance of stormwater management systems for regulated development.
- Village Code – Article III, Division 1, Section 118-81 addresses post-construction runoff from new development and re-development. The Village reviews proposed site plans prior to issuing permits for development. Ongoing projects are inspected regularly to ensure conformance with the approved site plan. All stormwater storage facilities constructed as part of a private development remain under private ownership and are maintained by the owner.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations

- Employee Training – Public Works Department staff is trained according to the Policy and Procedures Manual, which covers topics such as: material storage, hazardous wastes, illicit discharges, equipment cleaning, vehicle maintenance, street maintenance, and lawn and landscape care. The Manual calls for both formal and on-the-job training for all staff positions.
- Street Sweeping – The Village sweeps most streets approximately once per week. High traffic areas are swept once every 4-6 weeks. Street sweepings are temporarily stored in bins at the Public Works Facility until they are hauled away by a licensed waste hauler.
- Inspection and Maintenance – Stormwater detention facilities and catch basin are visually inspected on a regular basis. The storm sewer system is inspected periodically using a video camera. Maintenance is performed on the storm sewer system, as necessary.
- Material Storage – Flammable materials are contained in indoor fire-resistant cabinets. Underground storage tanks are double-walled for containment and fuel is stored in containers with overflow alarms. Road salt and other municipal operations materials are stored under permanent cover.
- Fleet Maintenance and Cleaning – Maintenance and cleaning are performed inside the Public Works facility where floor drains are connected to triple basins and the sanitary sewer system, rather than the storm sewer system.
- Landscaping – Pesticides and herbicides are only applied on Village property by trained and licensed applicators.

Reporting

- Notice of Intent – The term of the Village's General Permit from the IEPA is five years. At the end of each permit term, the Village submits a Notice of Intent to comply with the conditions of the General Permit to the IEPA. This Notice of Intent describes the practices the Village intends to implement in order to meet the conditions of the General Permit.
- Annual Report – Each year the Village submits a report to the IEPA documenting its status of compliance with the conditions of the General Permit.