

The primary cause of water pollution throughout the United States today is contaminated stormwater runoff.

We're working to protect your drinking water supplies and natural features from this contamination.



For more information on the MS4 Program and what you can do to help go to [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org)

The MS4 community partnership is a cooperative educational effort between NIRPC and the Lake County Surveyor, Cedar Lake, Crown Point, Dyer, East Chicago, Gary, Griffith, Highland, Hobart, Lake Station, Merrillville, Munster, New Chicago, Schererville, St. John, the Porter County Surveyor, Chesterton, Portage, Porter, Valparaiso, Nature Works CD, and Valparaiso Lakes Area CD.

Remember,  
only Rain in the Drain!



# A Citizen's Guide to: The MS4 Program

NORTHWEST  
INDIANA  
MS4  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP



## What is an MS4?

MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

An MS4 Community owns or operates a system for collecting and conveying stormwater such as pipes or ditches in an urban or urbanizing area.

## Who runs the MS4 Program?

In Northwest Indiana, Your local government, sewer utility, or county surveyor.

MS4 is a federally mandated program to improve water quality. The state requires your community to comply with this rule.

## Why is this necessary?

To improve water quality.

When it rains or when snow melts, stormwater flows through pipes or ditches and drains untreated into lakes, rivers, and streams, carrying pollutants with it.

## How is the Program funded?

Your community must fund it locally through tax assessments or user fees.

These may be shown on your tax, water, or sewer bills labeled as a "Stormwater Fee". There is **NO** state or federal funding for this mandate.

## What does the MS4 Program do?

Reduces water pollution from stormwater runoff.

Through 6 required Minimum Control Measures detailed here.

What specifically is my community required to do? (Six minimum control measures are mandated.)

### I. Public Education and Outreach

Teach you the importance of cleaning up stormwater and the negative impact daily activities can have on lakes and streams.

### II. Public Participation and Involvement

Include you in the development and implementation of the community MS4 Program.

### III. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Identify and eliminate illegal discharges into the storm sewer system from homes and business.

### IV. Construction Site Run-off Control

Ensure that developers, builders, and others implement suitable plans to prevent sediment and pollutants from running off construction sites.

### V. Post-Construction Stormwater Management

Design long-term best management practices and control measures that reduce or eliminate polluted stormwater run-off from newly developed or redeveloped areas and make sure that they are maintained to function over time.

### VI. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping at Municipal Operations

Reduce stormwater pollution from local government facilities and activities such as road salting and pesticide use.