

Municipal Stormwater Management Plan

Borough of Runnemede

2019 Revision

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Goals

The goals of this MSWMP are to:

- reduce flood damage, including damage to life and property;
- minimize, to the extent practical, any increase in stormwater runoff from any new development;
- reduce soil erosion from any development or construction project;
- assure the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts and bridges, and other in-stream structures;
- maintain groundwater recharge;
- prevent, to the greatest extent feasible, an increase in nonpoint pollution;
- maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions, as well as for drainage;
- minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff from new and existing development to restore, enhance, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state, to protect public health, to safeguard fish and aquatic life and scenic and ecological values, and to enhance the domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial, and other uses of water; and
- protect public safety through the proper design and operation of stormwater basins. To achieve these goals, this plan outlines specific stormwater design and performance standards for new development. Additionally, the plan proposes stormwater management controls to address impacts from existing development. Preventative and corrective maintenance strategies are included in the plan to ensure long-term effectiveness of stormwater management facilities. The plan also outlines safety standards for stormwater infrastructure to be implemented to protect public safety.

Stormwater Discussion

Land development can dramatically alter the hydrologic cycle (See Figure C-1) of a site and, ultimately, an entire watershed. Prior to development, native vegetation can either directly intercept precipitation or draw that portion that has infiltrated into the ground and return it to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. Development can remove this beneficial vegetation and replace it with lawn or impervious cover, reducing the site's evapotranspiration and infiltration rates. Clearing and grading a site can remove depressions that store rainfall. Construction activities may also compact the soil and diminish its infiltration ability, resulting in increased volumes and rates of stormwater runoff from the site. Impervious areas that are connected to each other through gutters, channels, and storm sewers can transport runoff more quickly than natural areas. This shortening of the transport or travel time quickens the rainfall-runoff response of the drainage area, causing flow in downstream waterways to peak faster and higher than natural conditions. These increases can create new and aggravate existing downstream flooding and erosion problems and increase the quantity of sediment in the channel. Filtration of runoff and removal of pollutants by surface and channel vegetation is eliminated by storm sewers that discharge runoff directly into a stream. Increases in impervious area can also decrease opportunities for infiltration which, in turn, reduces stream base flow and groundwater recharge. Reduced base flows and increased peak flows produce greater fluctuations between normal and storm flow rates, which can increase channel erosion. Reduced base flows can also negatively impact the hydrology of adjacent wetlands and the health of biological communities that depend on base flows. Finally, erosion and sedimentation can destroy habitat from which some species cannot adapt.

Figure C-1: Groundwater Recharge in the Hydrologic Cycle

Insert Picture

In addition to increases in runoff peaks, volumes, and loss of groundwater recharge, land development often results in the accumulation of pollutants on the land surface that runoff can mobilize and transport to streams. New impervious surfaces and cleared areas created by development can accumulate a variety of pollutants from the atmosphere, fertilizers, animal wastes, and leakage and wear from vehicles. Pollutants can include metals, suspended solids, hydrocarbons, pathogens, and nutrients. In addition to increased pollutant loading, land development can adversely affect water quality and stream biota in more subtle ways. For example, stormwater falling on impervious surfaces or stored in detention or retention basins can become heated and raise the temperature of the downstream waterway, adversely affecting cold water fish species such as trout. Development can remove trees along stream banks that normally provide shading, stabilization, and leaf litter that falls into streams and becomes food for the aquatic community.

Background

The Township encompasses 55 square mile area in Somerset County, New Jersey. In recent years, the Township has been under significant development pressure. The population of the Township has increased from 19,061 in 1980, to 28,808 in 1990, to 36,634 in 2000. This population increase has resulted in considerable demand for new development; changes in the landscape have most likely increased stormwater runoff volumes and pollutant loads to the waterways of the municipality. Figure C-2 illustrates the waterways in the Township. Figure C-3 depicts the Township boundary on the USGS quadrangle maps. Each municipality should have population statistics. This information is available from the New Jersey Department of Labor at www.wnjpin.net/OneStopCareerCenter/LaborMarketInformation/lmi25/index.html. Mapping required for a municipal plan is fairly simple, but requires Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Mapping information is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/lists.html> as well as a link to a free version of GIS software, ArcExplorer. Many local watershed associations and environmental commissions have GIS and can help create maps for an MSWMP. Rutgers University Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis can also assist in preparing these maps. Detailed direction on how to create these maps is provided at <http://rwqp.rutgers.edu/univ/nj/>. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has established an Ambient Biomonitoring Network (AMNET) to document the health of the state's waterways. There are over 800 AMNET sites throughout the state of New Jersey. These sites are sampled for benthic macroinvertebrates by NJDEP on a five-year cycle. Streams are classified as non-impaired, moderately impaired, or severely

impaired based on the AMNET data. The data is used to generate a New Jersey Impairment Score (NJIS), which is based on a number of biometrics related to benthic macroinvertebrate community dynamics. The two major rivers that border the Township to the north and east, the Raritan River and the Millstone River,

Insert maps

respectively, are both moderately impaired. The five tributaries that flow through the Township to these major rivers are also moderately impaired based on AMNET data. In addition to the AMNET data, the NJDEP and other regulatory agencies collect water quality chemical data on the streams in the state. These data show that the instream total phosphorus concentrations and fecal coliform concentrations of the Raritan River and Millstone River frequently exceed the state's criteria. This means that these rivers are impaired waterways and the NJDEP is required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for these pollutants for each waterway. A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant that can be accepted by a waterbody without causing an exceedance of water quality standards or interfering with the ability to use a waterbody for one or more of its designated uses. The allowable load is allocated to the various sources of the pollutant, such as stormwater and wastewater discharges, which require an NJPDES permit to discharge, and nonpoint source, which includes stormwater runoff from agricultural areas and residential areas, along with a margin of safety. Provisions may also be made for future sources in the form of reserve capacity. An implementation plan is developed to identify how the various sources will be reduced to the designated allocations. Implementation strategies may include improved stormwater treatment plants, adoption of ordinances, reforestation of stream corridors, retrofitting stormwater systems, and other BMPs. The New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (305(b) and 303(d)) (Integrated List) is required by the federal Clean Water Act to be prepared biennially and is a valuable source of water quality information. This combined report presents the extent to which New Jersey waters are attaining water quality standards, and identifies waters that are impaired. Sublist 5 of the Integrated List constitutes the list of waters impaired or threatened by pollutants, for which one or more TMDLs are needed. The integrated list is available from the NJDEP website at www.nj.gov/dep/wmm/sgwqt/wat/index.html. Specific data on biological monitoring (AMNET data) is available from the NJDEP web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/bfbm. Additional data can be found on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) site at www.water.usgs.gov. In addition to water quality problems, the Township has exhibited severe water quantity problems including flooding, stream bank erosion, and diminished base flow in its streams. Many of the culverts associated with road crossings in the Township are undersized. During severe storm events, these undersized culverts do not have adequate capacity, thereby causing a backwater effect and flooding upstream. The municipality should list specific areas that are affected by stormwater quantity problems and the extent. For example, if in a storm event in 2001, considered equivalent to a 20-year design storm, specific areas reached particular elevations, that should be included. These culverts were designed for much different hydrologic conditions (i.e., less impervious area) than presently exist in the Township. As the imperviousness increased in the Township, the peak and volumes of stream flows also increased. The increased amount of water resulted in stream bank erosion, which resulted in unstable areas at roadway/bridge crossings, and degraded stream habitats. The high imperviousness of the Township has significantly decreased groundwater recharge, decreasing base flows in streams during dry weather periods. Lower base flows can have a negative

impact on instream habitat during the summer months. A map of the groundwater recharge areas are shown in Figure C-4. Wellhead protection areas, also required as part of the MSWMP, are shown in Figure C-5. The Township may want to adopt specific ordinances to protect wellhead protection areas to minimize the infiltration of pollutants into aquifers.

Design and Performance Standards

The Township will adopt the design and performance standards for stormwater management measures as presented in N.J.A.C. 7:8-5 to minimize the adverse impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and water quantity and loss of groundwater recharge in receiving water bodies. The design and performance standards include the language for maintenance of stormwater management measures consistent with the stormwater management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8 Maintenance Requirements, and language for safety standards consistent with N.J.A.C. 7:8-6 Safety Standards for Stormwater Management Basins. The ordinances will be submitted to the county for review and approval within [24 months of the effective date of the Stormwater Management Rules.] During construction, Township inspectors will observe the construction of the project to ensure that the stormwater management measures are constructed and function as designed.

Plan Consistency

The Township is not within a Regional Stormwater Management Planning Area and no TMDLs have been developed for waters within the Township; therefore this plan does not need to be consistent with any regional stormwater management plans (RSWMPs) nor any TMDLs. If any RSWMPs or TMDLs are developed in the future, this Municipal Stormwater Management Plan will be updated to be consistent. The Municipal Stormwater Management Plan is consistent with the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) at N.J.A.C. 5:21. The municipality will utilize the most current update of the RSIS in the New Jersey Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual • Appendix C: Sample Municipal Stormwater Management Plan • February 2004 • Page C-12 stormwater management review of residential areas. This Municipal Stormwater Management Plan will be updated to be consistent with any future updates to the RSIS. The Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance requires all new development and redevelopment plans to comply with New Jersey's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards. During construction, Township inspectors will observe on-site soil erosion and sediment control measures and report any inconsistencies to the local Soil Conservation District