



SAINT CHARLES  
MISSOURI

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Stormwater Pollution and Commercial Operations

#### **Why is the City concerned with Stormwater runoff?**

As stormwater travels across parking lots, saturated lawns, streets, and other impermeable surfaces, it picks up debris, chemicals and other pollutants like: oil, trash, silt, pet waste, pesticides and fertilizer. Since stormwater is not cleaned, this water and all the pollutants it has picked up, are deposited into our area creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Federal laws require the City of St. Charles to control stormwater quality to keep water clean and prevent pollution. Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program established under the Clean Water Act extends permits to smaller communities (less than 100,000 population) and public entities that own or operate a separate stormwater system. The City of St. Charles is a Phase II municipality. By properly managing our stormwater systems and investing in new pollution prevention improvements, the City of St. Charles can avoid costly federal penalties.

#### **My property does not flood, so why should I be concerned about stormwater?**

Clogged storm drains can lead to urban flooding which can lead to traffic problems, unsanitary conditions, injuries and loss of life. Pollution impacts the waterways everyone enjoys for recreation and supplies drinking water. Flooding results in public and private funds being spent on emergency services, clean-up and repairs. Erosion causes the loss of property and can threaten residential structures. The negative financial implications of these events impact all regional property owners for years through loss of land, increased insurance rates and lowered property values.

#### **How does the City currently manage stormwater issues?**

The City of St. Charles' stormwater system includes ditches, detention basins, just over 175 miles of stormwater pipes with over 5,200 curb inlets, 2,108 storm manholes, 1,210 storm outlets, 54 culverts, 11 bridges, and multiple codes meant to control the impact of development on stormwater runoff. This system is maintained by the City of St. Charles Public Works Department and designed to help control urban flooding events by directing stormwater runoff into ditches, detention basins, local creeks and streams.

#### **What is considered pollution and what is prohibited?**

Dumping pollutants such as trash, auto fluids, soap, paint, yard waste, mud/soil and animal waste into the Stormwater system is prohibited. Indoor drains such as a sump pump connection to a floor drain is prohibited. If you have an indoor connection it needs to be disconnected and discharged outside the property structure. Properties near streams must also be maintained to ensure the beneficial use, function and physical integrity of the waterway.

**Should I have my parking lot cleaned?**

The City of St. Charles encourages businesses to contract or regularly clean their parking lots or paved surfaces throughout the City. Maintaining your lot picks up trash and other debris that could potentially be discharged into area creeks, streams, rivers and lakes.

**What if I witness or have a spill on my property?**

It is your responsibility to control, contain and clean up any material on your property that may cause the stormwater system to become polluted. Please do not ignore a known problem. Block off storm drains and use proper materials to soak up minor spills. Sweep them up, absorb them, and **DO NOT** hose them down the drain. Hazardous materials should be reported immediately by calling 911. Non-hazardous spills that violate state water quality standards must be reported to the City of St. Charles Public Works Department. If you witness a spill or stormwater pollution, please call the City of St. Charles Public Works Department immediately at 636-949-3237

**Are there requirements for new construction development?**

Anyone contemplating any construction work within the City of St. Charles must prepare a stormwater management plan for each site being developed, re-developed or maintained. Stormwater management plans must be prepared and sealed by a professional engineer who is licensed to practice in the State of Missouri.

**Does the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Erosion & Sediment Control Plan need to be prepared.**

No. Anyone may write the SWPPP and draw the Erosion & Sediment Control Plans. MoDNR does not require that these be completed by a Professional Engineer.