



## Clean Water Act - Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

The University of Southern Indiana (USI) is situated on approximately three hundred acres of beautiful rolling hills in southwestern Indiana just a few miles north of the Ohio River. The campus has grown, over the last thirty-nine years, from a few buildings to over 75 buildings. Careful planning has enabled this growth to take place while maintaining large forested areas, open green spaces and the construction of 2 large lakes. Storm water from buildings, paved parking areas and undeveloped areas is collected in a storm sewer conveyance system which is directed to the original natural drainage system. The natural drainage of storm water is divided into three watersheds as it leaves the campus. Each watershed flows through unnamed tributaries to Bayou Creek.

Congress enacted the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments in 1972. The Act was amended in 1977 and this law became commonly known as the Clean Water Act. In 1990 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Phase I which covered medium and large MS4s. The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule was the next step under the Clean Water Act which covers MS4s in urbanized areas, universities, and prisons.

The University of Southern Indiana is included in Phase II MS4s and has implemented a program to assure compliance with regulations promulgated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The information presented here is intended to help the students, faculty and staff of USI to understand the MS4 Program and the importance of reducing the pollution entering our storm water conveyance system.

At USI, the storm water conveyance system consists of road ditches, curb inlets, storm drains, the two campus lakes, one pond and several intermittent streams that drain into Bayou Creek which then empties into the Ohio River.

Storm water runoff flows across planted areas and pavement into ditches, storm drains, or curb inlets. This runoff picks up animal waste, debris, chemicals, dirt, oil drippings from vehicles, and other pollutants which are carried into the conveyance system and eventually to the Ohio River.

Treating storm water runoff would be difficult and very expensive. Stopping pollutants from entering the system in the first place will be more effective, but it requires that all users of the USI campus join the effort. Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water pollution.

- 💧 Properly dispose of hazardous materials such as used oil, paint, and other chemicals. **DO NOT POUR** them on the ground or into any part of the storm water conveyance system. Report misconduct to the offices named below.
- 💧 Place trash in proper containers and prevent it from entering the conveyance system and plugging drains.
- 💧 Use fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and road chemicals properly to prevent excessive runoff.

- 💧 Look for and report any signs of pollution such as discolored soil, debris and chemical residue. Also report any discharge from storm water outfalls during dry weather which could be a sign that there is a problem with the conveyance system.
- 💧 Store all chemicals and other materials that can pollute storm water indoors. Any storage container that is used outdoors should not rust or leak.
- 💧 Report any illegal dumping of trash, chemicals, or other waste immediately.
- 💧 Report mud, debris or other material in runoff from construction sites. Also report mud or any material being tracked onto roadways by construction vehicles.

Make reports of any observed pollution problem to one of the following:

- 💧 Physical Plant (812) 464-1729
- 💧 Security (812) 464-1845
- 💧 MS4 coordinator (812) 461-5266

The following photographs show some of the storm water runoff problems to be looking for as you move around the USI campus.



Trash on pavement



Trash at drain



Discolored soil



Oil on Water

There are other ways for you to get involved to reduce pollution in storm water runoff and assist in the MS4 program:

- 💧 Volunteer to assist in marking existing storm drains which will help prevent dumping into those drains.
- 💧 Participate in and volunteer to help with “Earth Day” activities. You can find more information about Earth Day at <http://www.earthdayindiana.org> or <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/students/earthday.htm>
- 💧 Participate in recycling programs for metal cans, plastic products, and paper products.

- 💧 Recycle used oil through existing drop-off centers.
- 💧 Properly dispose of hazardous materials such as paint and household chemicals during publicized collection days in each area county.
- 💧 Properly maintain vehicles to reduce oil and gasoline dripping.