



Village Hall
156 E. Division St.
Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 887-8251
8:00am-5:00pm

Department of Public Works
276 W. Division St.
Sparta, MI 49345
(616) 887-9303
7:00am-3:30pm

Residential Storm Water Discharge in the Village of Sparta

Hello! This packet was put together by Village staff in order to inform citizens about the ordinances surrounding storm water discharge and the penalties for violating those ordinances. Suggestions are also provided to aid citizens in effectively dealing with their storm water runoff. Any questions relating to residential storm water discharge should be addressed to the Department of Public Works.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is storm water runoff?

Storm water runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that comes off of roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and other surfaces that does not infiltrate into the ground.

What is polluted storm water runoff?

When storm water flows over surfaces, it picks up and carries pollutants on those surfaces becoming polluted. Common storm water pollutants include oil, sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, litter, yard waste, and pet waste.

What causes storm water runoff pollution?

Every day activities we do around our businesses, homes, and yards can impact the quality of our storm water. Some common examples include over fertilizing our yards or fertilizing before a heavy rain, not picking up pet waste, and excessive use of pesticides. Oil drips from vehicles, litter, yard debris, and sediment are other examples of common storm water pollutants.

Why do we need to manage storm water and polluted runoff?

Managing our storm water aims to improve the quality and reduce the volume of storm water. Unlike sanitary sewer water, storm water does not receive any treatment before it enters our waterways, thus delivering pollutants with it that it picks up along the way. This adversely affects wildlife, human health and safety. In addition, water that falls on hard surfaces and doesn't infiltrate into the ground runs off to lower areas, with excess runoff potentially causing local flooding and stream bank erosion.

I have a question about storm water discharge in the Village. Who do I contact?

If you have a question about storm water discharge in the Village, please contact Dennis Brinks, Department of Public Works Supervisor at (616) 887-9303, or by emailing dbrinks@spartami.org.

How can I help prevent storm water pollution?

When working around your home or yard, make sure you dispose of products properly, never dump or dispose of items in storm drains, pick up after your pets, keep yard waste out of the street, and eliminate or minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Volunteer to help educate your community on how they can help prevent storm water pollution.

What is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water. These may occur due to illegal connections to the storm drain system in which wastewater enters the storm drains (i.e. floor drains connected to the storm drain system). Direct dumping of waste into a storm drain or placement such that waste can enter the storm drain system is also a form of illicit discharge.

What does MS4 mean?

An MS4 is a conveyance or system of conveyances that is owned by a state, city, village, or other public entity and designed to collect or convey storm water. An MS4 is not a combined sewer, nor is it part of a sewage treatment plant. Polluted storm water runoff is commonly transported through municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), and then often discharged, untreated, into local water bodies.

Who controls Michigan's storm water program?

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), formally Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), controls Michigan's storm water program. The goal of Michigan's Storm Water Program is to protect and preserve Michigan's water resources through pollution prevention measures. EGLE works to accomplish this goal through a two-step process. First, EGLE has been authorized by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to manage a storm water discharge permit program. Second, EGLE is implementing a compliance assistance approach to the permit program.

Visit mi.gov/eglestormwater for more information or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 for any questions or concerns.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Below are the Village ordinances that have been adopted by Village Council that are related to storm water management and enforcement.

Village Ordinances

Sec. 58-2. - Damage and obstruction prohibited

No person shall make any excavation in, discharge onto or over, or otherwise cause any damage to, any street in the village, except under the conditions and in the manner permitted in this Code. No person shall place any article, thing, or obstruction, of any kind or nature, in any street, except under the conditions and in the manner authorized by this Code including, without limitation, the provisions of Chapter 74, Article VI; but this provision shall not be deemed to prohibit such incidental obstructions associated with the expeditious movement of articles to and from abutting premises, or to the lawful parking of vehicles within the part of the street reserved for vehicular traffic.

Sec. 58-17. Placement of leaves or other material.

The owner and/or occupant, or his agent or employee, of any parcel and any individual, partnership, or corporation shall not place any leaves and/or other debris or material, or water, snow or ice upon, or discharge other thing or matter onto or over the streets, sidewalks, or public rights-of-way of the village or upon any property not his own, unless permission has been obtained for such placement and in compliance with this Code including, without limitation, the provisions of Chapter 74, Article VI. The owner and/or occupant of any parcel from which any such item or similar item originates shall be responsible for the proper placement of the same such item as called for in this section, in addition to any employee or agent or contractor of any such owner and/or occupant.

Sec. 74-241: Stormwater, surface water, etc.

- (a) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling waters, or unpolluted industrial process waters into any sanitary sewer.
- (b) Stormwater and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to the ground surface, or to a natural outlet approved by the village or MDEQ.

Sec. 74-341: Sump pump discharge

- (a) Whenever building footing drains are required or utilized, a direct connection between the footing drains through a sump-pump-check-valve system to a storm sewer is required. A gravity system is not permitted.
- (b) A stormwater lateral shall be provided for each parcel at the time of storm sewer construction. (Permission from the Village is required before hooking up. Village DPW must inspect the connection and the as-builts provided for lateral in right-of-way.)

Sec. 74-342: Public health, safety, and welfare

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare shall be a primary consideration in the design of all stormwater runoff facilities.

Penalty for Violation

Sec. 74-395: Sanctions for violation

- (a) Any person violating any provision of this article shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction and subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 plus costs, damages, expenses, and other sanctions as authorized under chapter 87 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 and other applicable laws, including, without limitation, equitable relief; provided, however, that the violation stated in subsection (b) shall be a misdemeanor. Each day such violation occurs or continues shall be deemed a separate offense and shall make the violator liable for the imposition of a fine for each day. The rights and remedies provided for in this section are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies provided by law. An admission or determination of responsibility shall not exempt the offender from compliance with the requirements of this article.

For purposes of this section, “subsequent offense” means a violation of the provisions of this article committed by the same person within 12 months of a previous violation of the same provision of this ordinance for which said person admitted responsibility or was adjudicated to be responsible.

The village manager, village zoning administrator, and village building inspector are authorized to issue municipal civil infraction citations to any person alleged to be violating any provision of this ordinance.

- (b) Any person who neglects or fails to comply with a stop-work order issued under section 74-396 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 93 days, or both such fine and imprisonment, and such person shall also pay such costs as may be imposed in the discretion of the court.
- (c) Any person who aids or abets a person in a violation of this article shall be subject to the sanctions provided in this section.

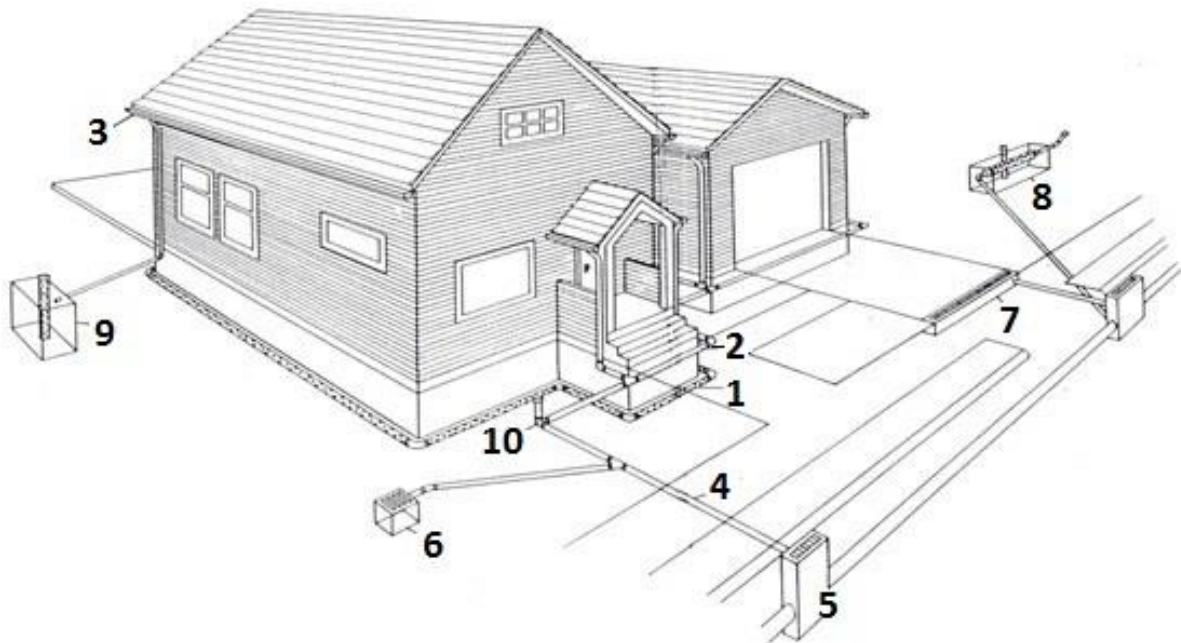
Reasons for Sparta’s Ordinances

The Village of Sparta has these ordinances and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to ensure the safety of its citizens and to protect the infrastructure of the village and its residents. It is important to make sure that water is discharged properly and not in a way that is harmful to the environment or to surrounding neighbors.

Water that is not discharged properly can lead to many different problems. If storm water is illegally routed to the street or sidewalk, that water can collect and become a hazard to motorists and pedestrians. Storm water that is routed to a property line may damage or destroy a neighbors grass or garden. This is why it is necessary to familiarize yourself with proper methods for storm water discharge.

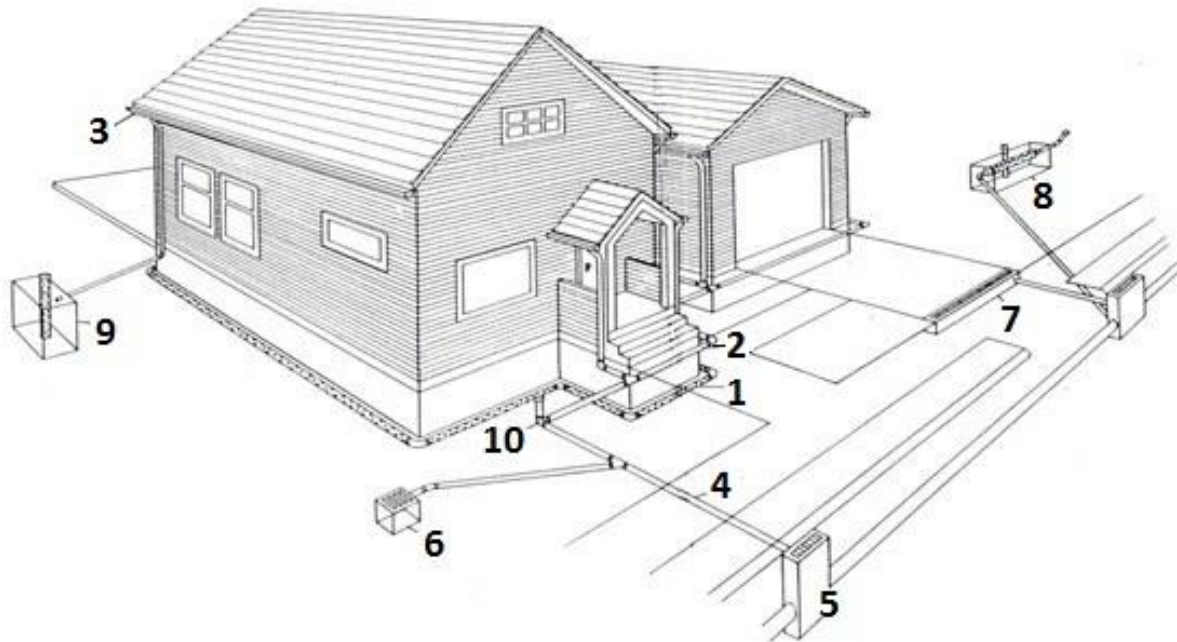
Remember to call MISS DIG 3 days before you dig. 1-800-482-7171

Suggested Solutions



1. **Foundation drains** divert stormwater away from your building's foundation. Foundation drainpipes are perforated and usually surrounded by gravel. The pipes disperse the water (instead of discharging in a concentrated area) and the gravel contributes to infiltration of the water. The gravel can be wrapped with a layer of filter fabric to prevent the drain from clogging with sediment.
2. **Roof drainpipes** are not perforated, and are not connected to the foundation drain system. They should be connected to convey water to the Village's storm drain system, to a drywell, or directly to a waterbody.
3. **Gutters** collect runoff from a building's roof. This runoff is conveyed through downspouts to the roof drain system. Gutters should be kept clear of leaves and other debris so clogging does not occur in the roof drain system.
4. **Storm drainpipes** convey rainwater to the Village's stormwater system. Storm drainpipes can be made from many different materials such as concrete, aluminum, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
5. **Catch basins** are connected to storm drainpipes. They are concrete structures (either round or rectangular) with metal grates on top. Catch basins capture debris that could clog the pipes in a storm drain system. You can prevent the system from clogging by checking the catch basins in your neighborhood during and after a heavy storm. Use a broom or rake to remove any leaves or debris that have blocked the catch basin's grate.
6. **Yard inlets** are similar to catch basins but are much smaller. Metal and plastic yard inlets can be purchased at a local hardware store.
7. **Trench drains** are used to capture stormwater flowing over a larger area like a driveway. Trench drains convey rainwater to the Village's storm drain system.
8. **French drains** can be installed anywhere on your property that collects water. French drains are constructed with a perforated pipe. Gravel and filter fabric surrounds the pipe, similar to foundation drain systems.

Suggested Solutions (Cont.)



9. **Drywells** can be installed in areas that cannot be connected to a stormwater drainage system. Drywells are filled with gravel and surrounded by filter fabric. Water flows into the wells and infiltrates into the ground through the gravel.
10. **Cleanouts** are designed as easy access points for maintenance of the stormwater drainage system. They are usually located in a bend where debris can clog the system.

Borson, B. (2018). *Residential Drainage*. Retrieved from Life of an Architect: <https://www.lifeofanarchitect.com/residential-drainage/>

Pop-Up Drains (pictured below) can divert water from the building's foundation and out into the surrounding yard. Runoff water must stay on your property and cannot cross the sidewalk or enter the gutter pan.



How to Eliminate Water Runoff Contamination

The following is information obtained from Grand Valley State University's Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) - Information Services Center.

The well-known stories about environmental problems tend to focus on big, recognizable targets such as smoking industrial facilities, leaking toxic waste dumps, and messy oil spills. As a result, people often forget about water pollution caused by smaller nonpoint sources--especially pollution at the household level. Below are some recommendations to protect water quality in your community.

- Limit the amount of impenetrable surfaces in your landscape. Use permeable paving surfaces such as wood decks, bricks, and concrete lattice to let water soak into the ground.
- Allow thick vegetation or buffer strips to grow along waterways to slow runoff and soak up pollutants. Plant trees, shrubs, and ground cover. They will absorb up to 14 times more rainwater than a grass lawn and don't require fertilizer.
- Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. If you must use chemicals, test your soil to determine the right amount.
- Don't hose down driveways or sidewalks. Dry sweeping paved areas, along with careful trash disposal, are simple, effective pollution reducers.
- Gutters and down spouts should drain onto vegetated or gravel- filled seepage areas - not directly onto paved surfaces. Splash blocks also help reduce erosion.
- Divert runoff from pavement to grassy, planted or wooded areas of your property, so storm water can seep slowly into the ground.
- Compost grass clippings and leaves. Never allow them to wash into roadways where they will reach storm drains.
- Get involved in the planning and zoning process in your community. That's where the decisions are made that shape the course of development and the future quality of our environment.
- Place litter, including cigarette butts, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter in streets or down storm drains.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Many common household products, (paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleaners, etc.) contain toxic ingredients. When improperly used or discarded, these products are a threat to public health and the environment. Do not pour hazardous products down any drain or toilet. Do not discard with regular household trash. Learn about natural and less toxic alternatives and use them whenever possible. Contact your County Solid Waste Management Office for information regarding hazardous waste collection in your area.
- Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. Motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to humans and animals. Do not dump used motor oil down storm drains or on the ground.
- Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of bathing areas. Pet owners should pick up after their pets and dispose of the wastes in the garbage or toilet.
- Wash your car on the grass so soapy water soaks into the ground. Use a hose nozzle to prevent water from running when not in use.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly

http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/how-you-can-help-274.htm#Hm_own



Stormwater



Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt that flows over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved roads, parking lots or building rooftops, that does not soak into the ground. Stormwater flows into drains that take it directly to nearby lakes, rivers and streams.

Stormwater is NOT treated before it reaches our waterways. Therefore, managing stormwater on your property can help prevent pollution from reaching our drinking water supplies, and keep your foundation and basement dry.



Ways you can manage stormwater at home:

- Do not put anything in a storm drain
- Wash your car at the commercial car wash or on the grass (NOT on the driveway where water flows into a storm drain!)
- Keep storm drains clear of debris and trash
- Use phosphorus free fertilizer (or don't use any)
- Shovel snow first & salt second (or not at all)
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste
- Use practices that capture, slow, and absorb runoff such as:
 - Rain Barrels
 - Native Plants
 - Rain Gardens
 - Trees



What can you do?



Protect drinking water with smart stormwater management at home

We can protect our drinking water supply by mimicking nature, and allowing stormwater to infiltrate or sink slowly into the soil rather than running into catch basins or storm sewers. Native plants (pictured: butterfly weed) have long root systems that help soak up runoff, and look great in your yard!

Be a good steward!

Dispose of waste properly. Use chemicals, pesticides, and always use phosphorus free fertilizers sparingly and according to the directions on the package. Never dump anything into catch basins. They connect directly to lakes and rivers!



Get involved!



ADOPT-A-DRAIN
GRAND RIVER

Visit www.adoptadrain-igrow.org to learn more and find a drain near you!