

City of Gautier Stormwater Website Information

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is water that does not soak into the ground immediately during a rain event. In coastal areas, where rain events can drop large amounts of water in a short amount of time, stormwater can become a big problem. When stormwater moves across surfaces it carries pollutants with it and runs off into the storm sewer system. Water in the storm sewer system is not treated and this water travels directly into nearby water sources. Some of the pollutants which can be carried by stormwater include: hydrocarbons (from automotive fluids), soil and sediment, nutrients (from fertilizers), and biological pathogens (from fecal matter). Impervious surfaces such as asphalt, do not allow the stormwater to infiltrate the ground at all and this movement also contributes to runoff velocity (increasing turbidity).

TYPES OF STORMWATER POLLUTION:

Sediment: Sediment is produced from construction site runoff or anywhere the ground is bare and soil is scoured away by stormwater. Nutrients and other pollutants can bind to the soil particles and are then carried into waterways by stormwater. Erosion control is an important part of preventing sedimentation.

Sedimentation increases turbidity (the amount of suspended solids) which blocks sunlight and deters photosynthesis. The excess soils at the bottom of the waterway affect macro-invertebrate development. If you would like to report sediment or erosion control issues, contact Michael Atkinson, Flood Plain Manager @ (228) 497-1878.

Debris: Litter and trash dumping is a major concern for coastal areas. Recreation on rivers, bayous, and in the Sound generates debris within the waterways. This debris is not only unsightly but can be dangerous to fish and wildlife health. Join us for the Mississippi Coastal Clean Up held each year in the fall. For more information check out:

<http://www.masgc.org/cleanup/index.htm>

Household Hazardous Wastes: Paints, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids should be properly disposed. Jackson County holds a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in the spring of each year. Residents can bring their used paints, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids, batteries to a designated drop off location and the County will properly dispose of the wastes. For more information:

<http://www.co.jackson.ms.us/departments/solid-waste/community-events.php>

Illegal dumping of garbage or household hazardous wastes can be reported to Michael Atkinson @ (228) 497-1878.

Excess nutrients: Excess nutrients in waterways can lead decrease dissolved oxygen in the water and affect fish populations. Excess nutrients are usually attributed to fertilizer runoff. It is important to do a soil test before applying fertilizers to your yard or garden. Soil testing is provided by the Mississippi State Extension Service for a small fee. Visit their website for more information <http://msucares.com/crops/soils/testing.html>

Pathogens: Biological pathogens are distributed into waterways by pet and animal wastes. Failing or damaged septic systems also contribute to biological impairment of waterways. The Mississippi State Extension Services has put together a self-assessment for your septic system's risk of contamination. <http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p1869.htm>

WHAT IS STORMWATER PHASE II?

In the 1987 Amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA), the EPA developed Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program. Phase I addresses stormwater related pollution at large industrial sites, construction sites greater than 5 acres and Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4s) serving populations of 100,000 or greater.

In 1999, EPA expanded the NPDES program by adding Phase II. Phase II addresses stormwater discharges from construction activity that disturbs between 1 to five acres of land and MS4's with population densities greater than 1000 people per square mile. These MS4s are required to develop and implement a stormwater management program. These programs are designed to address six minimum measures: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, Post-Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

WHAT IS THE CITY OF GAUTIER DOING?

The City of Gautier has developed a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each Minimum Measure listed above. Some activities specified in the program include public education through online and paper educational materials, public involvement in clean up events, training for municipal employees, training for contractors and developers on proper erosion and sediment control, and pollution prevention through routine maintenance. Several other items are included in the Stormwater Program. If you would like to view a copy of the program or submit comments please contact the Economic Development Department @ (228) 497-1878.

For more information on Stormwater, please check the following websites:

Links:

EPA Stormwater Website -- http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6

Basic Stormwater Information from EPA -- <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swbasicinfo.cfm>

Stormwater Outreach and Reference Documents -- <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm>

<http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/stormwater.html>

MDEQ -http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/NPS_ManagingPollutedRunoffInMississippi?OpenDocument

