

# Management of Surface Water Resources

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## Protecting our Water Resources

Our lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and wetlands are some of our most valuable natural resources. The City of Victoria is committed to protecting these natural resources for future generations and you can help. Paved streets, parking lots, yard wastes, soil erosion, and rooftops can contribute to the collection of pollutants like pesticides, sediment, oil, chemicals, and litter that make their way through the drainage systems and discharge, in many cases untreated, to our lakes, rivers, groundwater and streams. Stormwater runoff does not go to a wastewater treatment plant. Research shows that runoff is a leading source of water pollution.

## How Can you Help Keep our Lakes, Rivers and Streams Clean?

Residents can reduce their environmental impact by:

- Keeping trash and yard clippings out of the street and storm drains.
- Minimizing the use of pesticides, fertilizers and deicing materials.
- Properly disposing of hazardous wastes.
- Washing your car on the lawn.
- Using a nonphosphorus fertilizer.

## City Stormwater Services

The City of Victoria provides services to manage, conserve and protect the City's surface water resources. Left unmanaged, stormwater (rainfall and snowmelt) can have devastating consequences by transporting oil, chemicals, excess phosphorous, toxic metals, litter, and disease-causing organisms to these water bodies. Proper management and protection is necessary to retain a clean and sustainable natural water resource.

Management of water resources in the City is highly regulated and mandated by the federal and state governments. To comply with the federal and state laws on surface water management, the city is responsible for the physical drainage system (storm sewer, ditches, ponds, etc.) and protection of water bodies from degradation within the watershed. Stormwater within the City is transported or contained in a physical drainage system that must be constructed, inventoried, inspected, maintained, and eventually replaced or improved. It is also the City's responsibility to share in the studies, investigations, communications, policies, education, and outreach to protect

the water bodies that are within the City's watershed. This includes protection of all the water facilities (lakes, wetlands, rivers, etc.) both within and downstream of the City.

To guide and direct these services, the City has developed a Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP). The plan was prepared as part of the city's 2030 Comprehensive Plan and meets the requirements of the local watersheds and the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. The plan outlines the overlying goals and objectives, priorities, and implementation program for management and protection of surface waters, ground water, and related natural resources in the city.

- 2030 Surface Water Management Plan

### **How does the City Pay for Stormwater Services**

To pay for surface water management services, a Surface Water Management Utility Fee is assessed quarterly to all Victoria property owners. All property owners in Victoria are required to share in these costs to responsibly manage surface water and to comply with the federal and state rules and regulations. Please see the Stormwater Utility link below for more information.

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## **Stormwater Utility**

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The stormwater utility is a user fee that pays for city wide watershed planning studies and permitting compliance requirements mandated by federal and state laws, as well as other stormwater program activities. The utility fee is also used for certain maintenance and improvements to the stormwater drainage system such as culverts, ditches, wetlands, and stormwater ponds.

### **How Surface Water Utility Fees are Calculated**

Any property that is hooked up to City Sewer and/or Water is charged \$13.00 per quarter for the Surface Water Utility Fee.

### **City Services Funded Through the Fee**

- Surface Water Resource and Management Planning and Watershed Studies
  - Federal and State mandated permitting and compliance activities
  - Maintenance and/or inspection of off-road ditches, culverts, ponds and storm sewers.
  - Street sweeping
  - Identification, design and construction of capital projects to improve drainage and water quality
  - Detection and prevention of Illicit discharges into the storm water system
  - Construction site controls to prevent erosion and pollution
  - Public Education and Outreach
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## Erosion Control

Soil erosion and sedimentation are major contributors to pollution in our waterways. When rain falls on exposed soil, it washes soil away from the land. Runoff erodes bare ground, washes away valuable topsoil, and makes landscaping more difficult. It also carries nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants into streets, gutters, and ditches, where it then travels untreated to lakes, rivers, streams, or wetlands. Polluted runoff causes excessive growth of lake weeds, algae blooms, and reduced recreational opportunities such as swimming and fishing. Sediment-laden runoff clogs pipes, ponds, lakes, and wetlands and increases the risk of flooding.

### Temporary Stabilization

During home construction, verify that your builder has installed temporary stabilization measures to minimize erosion and prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving your property. Sediment control measures should be in-place on the down slope perimeter and near gutters, ditches, and all surface water and wetlands. Mulch, erosion control blanket, or similar materials must cover exposed soil.

### Permanent Stabilization

Establish permanent vegetation or ground cover as soon as possible. With proper planning, it may be possible to skip many temporary stabilization measures by installing permanent stabilization measures right away. Mulch, silt fences, downspout extenders, or other temporary stabilization measures can be removed following permanent stabilization.

Permits may be required for land disturbing activities. For more information, visit [MCWD](#) or [Carver County WMO](#).

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# Storm Water Pollution Protection Program

## MS4 Permit – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

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The City of Victoria is a mandatory small MS4 city. This means that Victoria is required by federal and state law to obtain and implement a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater permit administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is a system of designed conveyances for the purpose of collecting or conveying stormwater and owned or operated by the city. A stormwater conveyance system may consist of roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains.

### MS4 Permit Requirements

MS4s are required to develop and implement a stormwater pollution prevention program (SWPPP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants from their storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable. The SWPPP must cover six minimum control measures. The MS4 must identify best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals associated with each minimum control measure. An annual report on the implementation of the SWPPP must be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency each year.

The City's [Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program \(SWPPP\)](#) and [Storm Water Ordinance](#) are available [here](#).

### Special Waters and Impaired Waters

In addition, the MS4 cities that have stormwater watersheds that contribute to “specially protected” or “impaired waters” must implement additional best management practices and enhanced runoff controls for added protection to these water bodies. Victoria must address additional controls for the following water bodies:

- East Auburn Lake
- Lake Bavaria
- Lake Minnewashta
- Lake Virginia
- Mississippi River
- Mud Lake
- Parley Lake

- Stieger Lake
  - Stone Lake
  - Lake Tamarack
  - Lake Wasserman
  - Lake Zumbra
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## **Illicit Detection and Discharge Elimination**

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An illicit discharge is the dumping of any potentially hazardous liquid or solid material into a storm sewer or drainage ditch. While most illicit discharges don't make the evening news, they are a serious threat to our local water quality. The list of illicit discharges is lengthy – swimming pools full of chlorinated water emptied into storm sewers, restaurant grease traps rinsed out in back parking lots, leaky septic tanks and spilled fertilizer – just to name a few. The main thing to remember is that anything you would not want in our lakes, streams, and rivers, does not belong in the storm water collection system. Suspicious discharges include any discolored or soapy water, oil, or mysterious looking liquids. Residents are strongly encouraged to immediately report any suspicious discharges in roadside ditches or storm sewer outlets by calling City Hall at 952.443.4210 during regular business hours, or 952-292-2454 outside of regular business hours. Thank you for helping to keep our waters clean.