



# Municipal Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect local waterways

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## **Purpose**

This fact sheet gives an outline of common and/or cost-effective municipal BMPs that Phase I and II MS4s in Oklahoma can utilize for Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping practices. The information presented is *not* intended to provide complete guidance on all BMPs. Instead, it is intended as a general information source and resource guide.

## **Employee Education**

Municipal employees and contractors often perform maintenance, repair, construction, and other operations that can potentially pollute stormwater, so it is important that these employees understand how to manage potential pollutants so that pollutants do not end up in local waters.

Examples of municipal activities that have a higher potential to pollute stormwater are park management, fleet maintenance, building maintenance, street maintenance, construction and site disturbance, and stormwater system maintenance. Ideally, **all** municipal employees and contractors should be trained on BMPs, but the employees who work in these areas should always be well-versed in ways to prevent stormwater pollution and informed on why it is important. Municipalities should consider implementing an employee training program, either in-house or using free online resources and videos.<sup>1</sup>

## **Municipal Activity BMPs**

Municipal maintenance and construction operations have potential to pollute stormwater. The EPA has developed BMP guidance for many of these operations:

### **Landscaping**

Municipalities can participate in strategies that limit pesticide and fertilizer use, especially through use of native plants and Low-Impact (LID) designs. Ordinances limiting pesticides and fertilizer can aid in pushing the wider community to prevent pollution.<sup>2</sup>

### **Equipment & vehicle maintenance**

Municipalities typically operate fleets, which require regular repairs and maintenance. Municipalities should be well-versed on proper handling and disposal of vehicle fluids such as motor oil and antifreeze. Cities may opt to use safer alternatives or recycled products to lower their impact. Cities should also have spill cleanup Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) readily available to employees.<sup>3</sup>

### **Parking lot and street cleaning**

Street sweeping programs remove trash, sediment, and debris from curbs and storm drains and are an effective stormwater pollution control measure to practice with the co-benefit of keeping streets looking clean. Municipalities should consider the costs and benefit before implementing a street sweeping program, as they can reduce the need for costlier pollution control methods.<sup>4</sup>

### **Road and bridge maintenance**

Road and bridge maintenance is essential for every municipality. Roadways and parking areas directly mix pollutants pollutants such as road salts, heavy metals, oils, sediment, and hydrocarbons with stormwater runoff. Municipalities should plan paving operations in dry weather, consider permeable pavement options where applicable, and always apply de-icing agents in the correct amounts.<sup>5</sup>

### **Storm drain cleaning**

If storm drain systems get clogged with debris, pollutants, or oil, they must be cleaned somehow. Municipalities should develop SOPs for cleaning storm drains, whether they vacuum or jet debris.<sup>6</sup>

### **Municipal Facility BMPs**

Municipalities often operate maintenance yards where they house trucks, gas pumps, and hazardous chemicals. These facilities might be treated as separate industrial facilities, or cities can implement BMPs to protect storm drains from salt domes, leaking vehicles, and other chemicals.<sup>7</sup>

1. For detailed guidance on education programs, see [Municipal Employee Training and Education](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030D).

2. See [Municipal Landscaping](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030F).

3. See [Municipal Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030G).

4. See [Parking Lot and Street Sweeping](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030J).

5. See [Roadway and Bridge Maintenance](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030L).

6. See [Storm Drain System Cleaning](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030A).

7. See [Municipal Facilities Management](#) (EPA-832-F-21-030G).

**For a full menu of Municipal BMPs**, see [National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Stormwater-Pollution Prevention](#) (EPA).