

Keeping it Clean



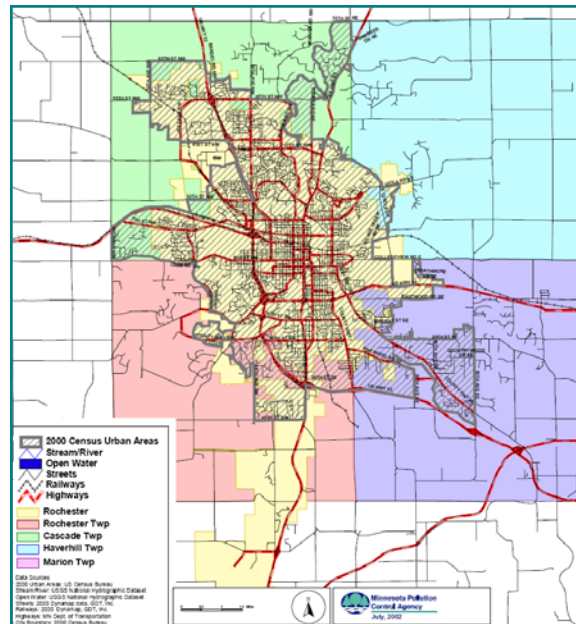
StormWater
MANAGEMENT

Municipal Storm Water Management

When rain or snowmelt falls on hard surfaces, like buildings and roads, it cannot soak into the ground. As storm water travels across these impervious surfaces, it collects dirt, debris, and chemicals that are carried directly into our lakes, streams, and rivers—often without treatment. Polluted storm water can harm people, aquatic plants, and animals.

Eight governmental units located within the Zumbro River Watershed (ZRW) must manage storm water to improve water quality according to the requirements of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits. They are:

- Cascade Township
- Haverhill Township
- Rochester Township
- Marion Township
- City of Rochester
- Olmsted County
- MN Department of Transportation—District 6
- Rochester Community and Technical College



These entities were designated because they are part of the Rochester Urbanizing Area, (see gray shaded area on this map), which covers approximately 29,760 acres or 3.3% of the ZRW. Based on the 2000 census data, 99,665 people live in this urbanizing area. Eighteen other small towns are located within the ZRW, but they are not required to have storm water permits. Their 2000 census population totals 26,790.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has identified "impaired waters" that don't meet water quality standards. Within the Rochester Urbanizing Area, Bear, Cascade, Silver and Willow Creeks have excessive turbidity levels that pose risks to aquatic life. The South Fork of the Zumbro River has excessive turbidity in the north plus excessive fecal coliform bacteria in the southwest, impairing Aquatic Life and Aquatic Recreation.

KEEPING OUR WATER CLEAN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Here are some ways you can help do your part to protect our water resources:

At Home:

- Never dump anything in storm drains
- Keep grass clippings, leaves, and lawn chemicals off paved surfaces
- Apply pesticides and fertilizers at the correct rate and time
- Minimize detergent pollution by using a commercial car wash
- Repair auto leaks
- Direct downspouts away from hard surfaces, collect rainwater in a rain barrel for garden use, or install a rain garden

At Work:

- Collect litter from paved areas
- Cover dumpsters
- Make sure your workplace has a control and containment plan to manage chemical spills and practices spill response procedures

At Construction Sites:

- Prevent erosion by minimizing the amount of exposed soil
- Divert storm water away from disturbed areas
- Install and maintain adequate erosion control tools such as silt fences and vegetative cover

To learn more about Rochester's Storm Water Permit Requirements and its Storm Water Management Program, go to their Storm Water Web Site: www.rochesterstormwater.com

