

**PUTNAM VALLEY  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
PUTNAM VALLEY, NY**

**MS4PY3 STORMWATER  
PROGRAM**

**NEWSLETTER # 1  
OCTOBER 2012**

**ONGOING STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
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**1. State Mandated Program**

In March 2003 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) initiated the Phase II Stormwater Program for all municipalities and public entities. The purpose of the program was to control stormwater pollution to our waterways. To implement the program the State issued a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit which requires permittees to develop a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) and to submit annual reports to the Department. The current permit for the District extends from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2015. Under the State mandated program, the District must initiate and implement a storm water management program by educating the school community about the storm water program and soliciting their participation in the control of pollution from storm water runoff. The program also requires District to prepare storm sewer maps of the District stormwater facilities, conduct a field survey of illicit discharges and develop a pollution prevention training program for Operations and Maintenance Staff.

**2. What is Stormwater Pollution?**

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground but runs off into nearby waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil and through lawns and gardens picking up a variety of pollutants such as:

- **Sediment** from construction sites
- **Oils and greases** from parking lots and driveways
- **Phosphorus and nitrogen** from lawns and gardens
- **Pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals** applied to lawns and gardens
- **Salt, sand and other de-icing agents** applied to parking lots and driveways during the winter season
- **Paper, plastics and other trash** deposited in parking lots and driveways
- **Sewage overflows** from failing septic systems

Although the amount of pollutants may seem trivial, the combined concentrations of contaminants threaten our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies.

Pollution conveyed by stormwater ultimately affects the quality of our drinking water, damages fisheries and habitats of plants and animals that depend on clean water for survival. Pollutants also affect recreational uses of water bodies making them unsafe for swimming, boating and fishing.

### **3. Shift to Green Stormwater Practices**

Since the initiation of the program, there has been a full-scale shift to green stormwater practices. The traditional stormwater management practices have focused on end-of-pipe systems, which collected stormwater and discharged the runoff to a nearby drainage ditch or to an offsite municipal stormwater conveyance system. As reported by USEPA, testing has shown significant amounts of pollutants are being discharged offsite. Therefore USEPA and state agencies, under Pollution Prevention (MCM6) require MS4s to adopt onsite treatment practices (green infrastructure management practices) that not only reduce the quantity of offsite stormwater runoff but also minimize the off-site long-term impacts of stormwater pollutants. Typical green stormwater practices that include onsite treatment and reduction consist of:

- Rain Gardens
- Biofiltration /Retention Systems
- Cisterns for Rain Harvesting
- Green Roofs
- Stormwater Planters
- Porous and Permeable Pavements
- Select Proprietary Products

Accordingly, the best way to control contamination is at the source, where contaminants can be identified, reduced and contained before being conveyed to surface water.

### **4. District Ongoing Stormwater Program**

For the MS4PY3 ongoing program, the District intends to undertake the following actions:

- A number of Newsletters and Fact Sheets will be prepared for placement on the Stormwater Website
- The District will explore how students and staff can participate in stormwater program
- The District will undertake a field survey of illicit discharges that may exist at the school property
- The District will review and update mapping of storm sewers, as required
- A Pollution Prevention Training will be provided to Operations and Maintenance Staff
- A Draft Annual Report will be placed on the stormwater website in May 2013, for the community to review and comment
- A SWMP Annual Report will be submitted to NYSDEC in June 2013, on current and future implementation goals

### **5. How Can You Help?**

While the administrative portion of the program has been initiated by your District, public participation/involvement is vital to the success of this program. You can help by:

- Visiting your Storm Water Website to review Newsletters and Fact Sheets on your storm water program
- Becoming involved in the school community environmental and conservation projects
- Having an open dialogue on how storm water pollution affects your environment
- Establishing volunteer student groups to actively engage in promoting student outreach and education on storm water activities
- Encouraging your peers (administrators, staff and students) to engage in an aggressive outreach and education program on storm water pollution control