

WMU MS4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP) KALAMAZOO, MI



The Western Michigan University (WMU) campus is regulated as an MS4 under the NPDES Permit program. Unlike other municipalities, the University has total control over the storm sewer system within the campus footprint. As a result, the University is solely responsible for its own MS4 permit compliance. As summarized within the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), the proactive and voluntary WMU approach to stormwater management and implementation of stormwater control measures (or best management practices) serves as a model for others within the Kalamazoo River Watershed to follow.

Kieser & Associates, LLC (K&A) assisted WMU with consolidation and preparation of their SWMP consisting of the following six (6) minimum measures required by the U.S. EPA and MDEQ:

1. Public Participation/Involvement Program (PPP)
2. Public Education Program (PEP)
3. Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP)
4. Construction Stormwater Runoff Control Program
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control Program
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Program

The WMU campus falls within the nonpoint source (NPS) load allocation for a phosphorus total maximum daily load (TMDL) developed for the Kalamazoo River and Lake Allegan. The Kalamazoo River TMDL was established in 2001 and requires a 50% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) originating from NPSs, using the 1998 load as a baseline. WMU set out to become the first local MS4 to document progress as well as achieve the TMDL 50% TP reduction goal. With a stormwater footprint of approximately 807 acres, including more than 100 buildings and approximately 25,000 students, this was a substantial challenge. Over the past 16 years, WMU has been an active partner and a leader in implementation of stormwater controls on its campus and within the watershed. Since 1998, WMU has implemented over 30 stormwater control projects.

In 2011, WMU also embraced a larger vision to become Stormwater Neutral[®] verified for TP (i.e., “net-zero” phosphorus load for their stormwater footprint). In an effort to be cost-effective, the University began approaching this goal through additional on-campus projects, and implementation of off-campus stormwater controls within the watershed as TP offsets. In 2015, the University reached this lofty goal by effectively reducing 100% of their 1998 baseline TP load.

STORMWATER NEUTRAL[®]

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Project Costs:
\$6,000 (K&A)

Project Duration:
Feb 2015 – Apr 2015