

Township of North Brunswick

Municipal Stormwater Management Plan

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Introduction

This Municipal Stormwater Management Plan (MSWMP) documents the strategy for North Brunswick Township (“the Township”) to address stormwater-related impacts. The creation of this plan is required by N.J.A.C. 7:14A-25 Municipal Stormwater Regulations. This plan contains all of the required elements described in N.J.A.C. 7:8 Stormwater Management Rules. The plan addresses groundwater recharge, stormwater quantity, and stormwater quality impacts by incorporating stormwater design and performance standards for new major development, defined as projects that disturb one or more acre of land. These standards are intended to minimize the adverse impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and water quantity and the loss of groundwater recharge that provides base flow in receiving water bodies. The plan describes long-term operation and maintenance measures for existing and future stormwater facilities.

The plan also addresses the review and update of existing ordinances, the Township Master Plan, and other planning documents to allow for project designs that include low impact development techniques. The final component of this plan is a mitigation strategy for when a variance or exemption of the design and performance standards is sought. As part of the mitigation section of the stormwater plan, specific stormwater management measures are identified to lessen the impact of existing development.

Goals

The goals of this MSWMP are to:

- reduce flood damage, including damage to life and property;
- minimize, to the extent practical, any increase in stormwater runoff from any new development;
- reduce soil erosion from any development or construction project;
- assure the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts and bridges, and other in-stream structures;
- maintain groundwater recharge;
- prevent, to the greatest extent feasible, an increase in nonpoint pollution;
- maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions, as well as for drainage;
- minimize pollutants in stormwater runoff from new and existing development to restore, enhance, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the state, to protect public health, to safeguard fish and aquatic life and scenic and ecological values, and to enhance the domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial, and other uses of water; and
- protect public safety through the proper design and operation of stormwater basins.

To achieve these goals, this plan outlines specific stormwater design and performance standards for new development. Additionally, the plan proposes stormwater management controls to address impacts from existing development. Preventative and corrective maintenance strategies are included in the plan to ensure long-term effectiveness of stormwater management facilities. The plan also outlines safety standards for stormwater infrastructure to be implemented to protect public safety.

Stormwater Discussion

Land development can dramatically alter the hydrologic cycle (See Figure C-1) of a site and, ultimately, an entire watershed. Prior to development, native vegetation can either directly intercept precipitation or draw that portion that has infiltrated into the ground and return it to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. Development can remove this beneficial vegetation and replace it with lawn or impervious cover, reducing the site's evapotranspiration and infiltration rates. Clearing and grading a site can remove depressions that store rainfall. Construction activities may also compact the soil and diminish its infiltration ability, resulting in increased volumes and rates of stormwater runoff from the site. Impervious areas that are connected to each other through gutters, channels, and storm sewers can transport runoff more quickly than natural areas. This shortening of the transport or travel time quickens the rainfall-runoff response of the drainage area, causing flow in downstream waterways to peak faster and higher than natural conditions. These increases can create new and aggravate existing downstream flooding and erosion problems and increase the quantity of sediment in the channel. Filtration of runoff and removal of pollutants by surface and channel vegetation is eliminated by storm sewers that discharge runoff directly into a stream. Increases in impervious area can also decrease opportunities for infiltration which, in turn, reduces stream base flow and groundwater recharge. Reduced base flows and increased peak flows produce greater fluctuations between normal and storm flow rates, which can increase channel erosion. Reduced base flows can also negatively impact the hydrology of adjacent wetlands and the health of biological communities that depend on base flows. Finally, erosion and sedimentation can destroy habitat from which some species cannot adapt.

See Appendix Two - Figure C-1 – Groundwater Recharge in the Hydrologic Cycle

In addition to increases in runoff peaks, volumes, and loss of groundwater recharge, land development often results in the accumulation of pollutants on the land surface that runoff can mobilize and transport to streams. New impervious surfaces and cleared areas created by development can accumulate a variety of pollutants from the atmosphere, fertilizers, animal wastes, and leakage and wear from vehicles. Pollutants can include metals, suspended solids, hydrocarbons, pathogens, and nutrients.

In addition to increased pollutant loading, land development can adversely affect water quality and stream biota in more subtle ways. For example, stormwater falling on impervious surfaces or stored in detention or retention basins can become heated and raise the temperature of the downstream waterway, adversely affecting cold water fish species such as trout. Development can remove trees along stream banks that normally provide shading, stabilization, and leaf litter that falls into streams and becomes food for the aquatic community.

Background

The Township encompasses 12.5 square mile area in Middlesex County, New Jersey. In recent years, the Township has been under significant development pressure. The 2000 Census places the population of the Township at 36,287. The population has increased significantly in the last three decades. This increase has resulted from considerable demand for new housing. Construction activity causes alterations to the character of the landscape. These changes are not altogether benign. The reduction in trees and forest vegetation, and the increase in area of impervious surface, along with automotive impacts of parking lots and new streets and new commercial establishments have almost certainly increased stormwater runoff volumes and pollutant loads to the waterways of the municipality.

See Appendix Two - Figure C-2 – USGS Quadrangle Maps delineating North Brunswick Township Boundary
See Appendix Two - Figure C-3 – Township Wetlands Map

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has established an Ambient Biomonitoring Network (AMNET) to document the health of the state's waterways. There are over 800 AMNET sites throughout the state of New Jersey. These sites are sampled for benthic macroinvertebrates by NJDEP on a five-year cycle. Streams are classified as non-impaired, moderately impaired, or severely impaired based on the AMNET data. The data is used to generate a New Jersey Impairment Score (NJIS), which is based on a number of biometrics related to benthic macroinvertebrate community dynamics. North Brunswick Township is bordered to the South by Farrington Lake, Lawrence Brook and Weston Mill Pond, on the North East by Mile Run, and in the West by Oakeys Brook. The impairment levels and associated TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) for these water bodies have yet to be determined by NJDEP and are not available at this time. It is anticipated that NJDEP is in the process of collecting data required for that investigation.

See Appendix Two - Figure C-4 – The Township Waterways

When the data collection is completed NJDEP will be required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for these pollutants for each waterway in or adjacent to North Brunswick.. A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant that can be accepted by a waterbody without exceeding water quality standards or interfering with the ability to use a waterbody for one or more of its designated uses. The allowable load is allocated to the various sources of the pollutant, such as stormwater and wastewater discharges, which require an NJPDES permit to discharge, and nonpoint source, which includes stormwater runoff from agricultural areas and residential areas, along with a margin of safety. Provisions may also be made for future sources in the form of reserve capacity. An implementation plan is developed to identify how the various sources will be reduced to the designated allocations. Implementation strategies may include improved stormwater treatment plants, adoption of ordinances, reforestation of stream corridors, retrofitting stormwater systems, and other BMPs.

The New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (305(b) and 303(d)) (Integrated List) is required by the federal Clean Water Act to be prepared biennially and is a valuable source of water quality information. This combined report presents the extent to which New Jersey waters are attaining water quality standards, and identifies waters that are impaired. Sublist 5 of the Integrated List constitutes the list of waters impaired or threatened by pollutants, for which one or more TMDLs are needed.

The integrated list is available from the NJDEP website at www.nj.gov/dep/wmm/sgwqt/wat/index.html. Specific data on biological monitoring (AMNET data) is available from the NJDEP web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/bfbm. Additional data can be found on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) site at www.water.usgs.gov.

In addition to water quality problems, the Township has experienced incidental water quantity problems including flooding, and stream bank erosion. Converging stormwater flows from Colonial Gardens and Farrington Park have severely impacted sections of the stream channel passing through the wooded area bordering the northern bank of Farrington Lake which is the receiving waterbody. This erosion has undermined portions of the bank to the point that several large hardwood trees near the bank of this stream have fallen, and several more are on the verge of the same. This neighborhood area of Highway 130 North has experienced a slow steady increase in construction of new homes for the past 3 decades. The design of the drainage system can be dated from early 1900s to present day. The state of the art has changed over the decades and these systems need to be studied for flow impacts on environment.

As construction demand increased the percentage of impervious surface in this area of the Township, the peak flow and volume of a stream can be assumed, based on observation of the result, to have also proportionally increased in volume and speed. This amplification of the stormwater volume and speed is therefore the causative agent of stream bank erosion in this case. Although not based on study data the stream habitat is most likely severely degraded. Cases of increased imperviousness are known to have a detrimental effect toward groundwater recharge, by decreasing base flows in streams during dry weather periods. Lower base flows can also have a negative impact on stream habitat during the dry summer months.

See Appendix Two - Figure C-5 Hydrologic Units (HUC 14s) Within the Township of North Brunswick
Figure C-7 Map Of The Groundwater Recharge Areas

Design and Performance Standards

The Township will adopt the design and performance standards for stormwater management measures as presented in N.J.A.C. 7:8-5 to minimize the adverse impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and water quantity and loss of groundwater recharge in receiving water bodies. The design and performance standards include the language for maintenance of stormwater management measures consistent with the stormwater management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8 Maintenance Requirements, and language for safety standards consistent with N.J.A.C. 7:8-6 Safety Standards for Stormwater Management Basins. The ordinances will be submitted to the county for review and approval within [24 months of the effective date of the Stormwater Management Rules.]

During construction, Township inspectors will observe the construction of the project to ensure that the stormwater management measures are constructed and function as designed.

See Appendix Three – Standard Operating Procedures – Design Standards

Plan Consistency

County Final CopyNoBrunsStormwaterMgtPlan 3-30-2005 4-17 PM version.doc Updated Feb. 24, 2006
(Replaces: North Brunswick Township Municipal Stormwater Mgt Plan - Feb 2005)

The Township is not within a Regional Stormwater Management Planning Area and no TMDLs have been developed for waters within the Township; therefore this plan does not need to be consistent with any Regional Stormwater Management Plan(s) (RSWMPs) nor any TMDLs. If any RSWMPs or TMDLs are developed in the future, this Municipal Stormwater Management Plan will be updated to be consistent.

The Municipal Stormwater Management Plan is consistent with the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) at N.J.A.C. 5:21. The municipality will utilize the most current update of the RSIS in the stormwater management review of residential areas. This Municipal Stormwater Management Plan will be updated to be consistent with any future updates to the RSIS.

The Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance requires all new development and redevelopment plans to comply with New Jersey's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards. During construction, Township inspectors will observe on-site soil erosion and sediment control measures and report any inconsistencies to the **Freehold Soil Conservation District**.

See Appendix Two - Figure C-6 – Township of North Brunswick Existing Land Use

Wellhead Protection Areas

North Brunswick has no wellhead protection areas within township boundaries.

Nonstructural Stormwater Management Strategies

The Township has charged its consulting engineering professionals with the task of reviewing the master plan and pertinent Land Use ordinances in Chapter 205 of the municipal code. CME Assoc. will provide a list of the sections in the Township land use and zoning ordinances that are to be modified to incorporate nonstructural stormwater management strategies. These will be the ordinances identified for revision. Once the ordinance texts are completed, they will be submitted to the county review agency for evaluation and approval within 24 months of the effective date of the Stormwater Management Rules. A copy will be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection at the time of submission.

Land Use/Build-Out Analysis

The Township of North Brunswick has completed a detailed analysis of all vacant or underdeveloped buildable land in the Township. Underdeveloped land includes land with older industrial buildings where there is redevelopment potential. The attached table entitled *Vacant or Underdeveloped Buildable Land in the Township of North Brunswick* lists all buildable sites and identifies them by location, block and lot, acreage and zoning category.

Including the three most obvious redevelopment sites in the Township, which are the J & J property, the General Automotive property, and the Treumann Storage property, the Township only has 506 acres of remaining developable land. The attached table provides a breakdown by zoning classification. Given that the 506 acres is less than the 640 acres established in the regulations, the Township is not required to do a Land Use/Build-Out Analysis by drainage basin.

See Appendix One - Undeveloped Land Use Analysis

Mitigation Plans

It is anticipated that the Township of North Brunswick Stormwater Control Ordinance will mandate a mitigation plan be prepared and submitted with each application for a variance or exemption from the design and performance Standards of North Brunswick's Municipal Stormwater Management Plan.

Mitigation Project Criteria:

Appendix One

Undeveloped Land Use Analysis

Appendix Two

List of Maps - Figures C-1

- C-1 Groundwater Recharge in the Hydrologic Cycle**
- C-2 Township Boundary on USGS Quadrangles**
- C-3 Wetlands Map**
- C-4 Township and its Waterways**
- C-5 Hydrologic Units (HUC 14s) Within the Township of North Brunswick**
- C-6 Townships Existing Land Use**
- C-7 Groundwater Recharge**
- C-8 Zoning Districts Within the Township of North Brunswick**
- C-9 Solid Waste Collection Zone (base map)**
 - 1. Outfall Pipe Mapping / Pollution Discharge Inspection Schedule (SPPP Form 6)**
 - 2. Inlet Labeling Geographic Area Schedule (SPPP Form 5)**

Appendix Three

Standard Operating Procedures

- 1. Design Standard – Storm Drain Inlet New Installation and Retrofit**
- 2. Bulk Fuel Handling and Dispensing SOPs**
- 3. General Housekeeping and Maintenance Functions**

DESIGN STANDARD

STORM DRAIN INLET NEW INSTALLATION and RETROFIT

This standard applies to storm drain inlets installed as part of new development and redevelopment projects (public or private) that disturb one acre or more. In addition, retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets to this standard is required where such inlets are in direct contact with repaving, repairing (excluding repair of individual potholes), reconstruction or alterations of facilities owned or operated by the Tier A Municipality. For exemptions to this standard see "Exemptions" below.

Grates in Pavement or Other Ground Surfaces

Design engineers shall use either of the following grates whenever they use a grate in pavement or another ground surface to collect stormwater from that surface into a storm drain or surface water body under that grate:

1. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJUDO) bicycle safe grate, which is described in Chapter 2.4 of the NJDOT Bicycle Compatible Roadways and Bikeways Planning and Design Guidelines (April 1996).
2. A different grate, if each individual clear space in that grate has an area of no more than seven (7.0) square inches, or is no greater than 0.5 inches across the smallest dimension.

(In regard to whether the different grate must also be bicycle safe, the Residential Site Improvement Standards include requirements for bicycle-safe grates.)

Examples of grates subject to this standard include grates in grate inlets, the grate portion (non-curb-opening portion) of combination inlets, grates on storm sewer manholes, ditch grates, trench grates, and grates of space bars in slotted drains. Examples of ground surfaces include surfaces of roads (including bridges), driveways, parking areas, bikeways, plazas, sidewalks, lawns, fields, open channels, and stormwater basin floors.

Curb-Opening Inlets (Including Curb-Opening Inlets in Combination Inlets)

Whenever design engineers use a curb-opening inlet, the clear space in that curb opening (or each individual clear space, if the curb opening has two or more clear spaces) shall have an area of no more than seven (7.) square inches, or be no greater than two (2.0) inches across the smallest dimension.

Exemptions

Retrofitting Exemptions

1. Repaving, repairing, reconstruction or alterations projects that began construction prior to March 3, 2004, and projects that were awarded bid prior to March 3, 2004, are exempted from the storm drain inlet design standard.

2.Existing cur-opening inlets do not need to be retrofitted to meet the design standard if each individual clear space in the curb opening has an area of no more than nine (9.0) square inches.

1. New Development and Redevelopment Projects – Where the review agency determines that this standard would cause inadequate hydraulic performance that could not practicably be overcome by using additional or larger storm drain inlets that meet these standards.

2. Retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets – Where the review agency determines that this standard would cause inadequate hydraulic performance.

Alternative Device Exemptions

1. Where flows from the water quality design storm as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:8 are conveyed through any device (e.g., end of pipe netting facility, manufactured treatment device, or a catch basin hood) that is designed, at a minimum, to prevent delivery of all solid and floatable materials that could not pass through one of the following:

- a. A rectangular space four and five-eighths inches long and one and one-half inches wide (this option does not apply for outfall netting facilities); or
- b. A bar screen having a bar spacing of 0.5 inches.

2. Where flows are conveyed through a trash rack that has parallel bars with one-inch (1”) spacing between the bars, to the evaluation of the water quality design storm as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:8.

Note – The preceding exemptions do not authorize any infringement of requirements in the Residential Site Improvement Standards for bicycle-safe grates in new residential development (N.J.A.C. 5:21-4.18(b)2 and 7.4(a)).

Historic Places Exemption

Where the Department determines, pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places rules at N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.2©, that action to meet this standard is an undertaking that constitutes an encroachment or will damage or destroy the New Jersey Register listed historic property.

BULK FUEL HANDLING AND DISPENSING SOPS

Required Practices For Fueling Operations, Vehicle Maintenance, and Good Housekeeping SBRs

A. The following BMPs must be implemented at maintenance yards including maintenance activities at ancillary operations (for example, impound yards, solid waste transfer stations, mobile fueling), where applicable, operated by Tier A Municipalities:

1. Inventory Requirements for Municipal Maintenance Yard Operations (including Ancillary Operations)

a. Tier A Municipalities shall include for municipal maintenance yard operations an inventory that includes the following:

i. A list to be made part of the SPPP of general categories of all materials or machinery located at the municipal maintenance yard, which could be a source of pollutants in a stormwater discharge. The materials in question include, but are not limited to: raw materials; intermediate products; final products; waste materials; by-products; machinery and fuels; and lubricants, solvents, and detergents that are related to the municipal maintenance yard operations or ancillary operations. Materials or machinery that are not exposed to stormwater or that are not located at the municipal maintenance yard or related to its operations do not need to be included.

2. Fueling

- a. No topping off vehicles, mobile fuel tanks, and storage tanks. Drip pans must be used under all hose and pipe connections and other leak-prone areas during bulk transfer of fuels.
- b. Block storm sewer inlets, or contain tank trucks used for bulk transfer, with temporary berms or temporary absorbent booms during the transfer process. If temporary berms are being used instead of blocking the storm sewer inlets, all hose connection points associated with the transfer of fuel must be within the temporary berms during the loading/unloading of bulk fuels. A trained employee must always be present to supervise during bulk fuel transfer.
- c. Clearly post, in a prominent area of the facility, instructions for safe operation of fueling equipment, and appropriate contact information for the person(s) responsible for spill response.
- d. Any equipment, tanks, pumps, piping and fuel dispensing equipment found to be leaking or in disrepair must immediately be repaired or replaced.

3. Vehicle Maintenance

- a. Perform all vehicle and equipment maintenance at an indoor location with a paved floor whenever possible. For projects that must be performed outdoors that last more than one day, portable tents or covers must be placed over the equipment being serviced when not being worked on, and drip pans must be used.

4. General Good Housekeeping

a. Properly mark or label all containers. Labels must be kept clean and visible. All containers must be kept in good condition and tightly closed when not in use. When practical, containers must be stored indoors. If indoor storage is not practical, container may be stored outside as long as they are covered and placed on spill platforms. An area that is graded and/or bermed that prevents run-through of stormwater may be used in place of spill platforms. Outdoor storage locations must be regularly maintained.

b. Conduct cleanups of any spills or liquids or dry materials immediately after discovery. Clean all maintenance areas with dry cleaning methods only. Spills shall be cleaned up with a dry, absorbent material (i.e., kitty litter, sawdust, etc.) and the rest of the area is to be swept. Collected waste is to be disposed of properly. Clean-up materials, spill kits and drip pans must be kept near any liquid transfer areas protected from rainfall.

5. Good Housekeeping Practices for Salt and De-icing Material Handling

a. The SPPP for De-icing Material Storage shall include the following required practices to ensure that Municipal Maintenance Yard Operations prevent or minimize the exposure of salt and de-icing materials to stormwater runoff from storage, loading and unloading areas and activities:

- i. Prevent and/or minimize the spillage of salt and de-icing materials during loading and unloading activities.
- ii. At the completion of loading and unloading activities, spilled salt and deicing materials shall be removed using dry cleaning methods and either reused to properly discarded.
- iii. Sweeping by hand or mechanical means of storage and loading/unloading areas shall be done on a regular basis. More frequent sweeping is required following loading/unloading activities. Sweeping shall also be conducted immediately following, as practicable, loading/unloading activities.
- iv. Tracking of materials from storage and loading/unloading areas shall be minimized.
- v. Minimize the distance salt and de-icing materials are transported during loading/unloading activities.

b. Interim Seasonal Tarping – All Tier A Municipalities must tarp all de-icing materials until a permanent structure is built. Interim storage measures must include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. Tarping materials that are not actively being used.
- ii. The storage of de-icing materials (salt and de-icing products) outside is limited to October 15th through April 30th. All salt and de-icing materials must be removed from the site prior to May 1st and may not be stored outside again until October 15th.
- iii. The implementing of a regular inspection, sweeping and housekeeping program to ensure that the material is maintained and stored in a proper manner.

6. Inspections

a. Inspections of all Municipal Maintenance Yard Operations shall be conducted regularly.

b. Discharge of Stormwater from Secondary Containment

i. The discharge pipe/outfall from a secondary containment area must have a valve and the valve must remain closed at all times except as described below. A municipality may discharge stormwater that accumulated in the secondary containment area if a visual inspection is performed to ensure that the contents of aboveground storage tank have not come in contact with the stormwater to be discharged. Visual inspections are only effective when dealing with materials that can be observed, like petroleum. If the contents of the tank are not visible in stormwater, the municipality must rely on previous tank inspections to determine with some degree of certainty that the tank has not leaked. If the municipality cannot make a determination with reasonable certainty that the stormwater in the secondary containment area is uncontaminated by the contents of the tank, then the stormwater shall be hauled for proper disposal.