What is MS4?

A municipal separate storm sewer system is a means of transportation, individually or in a system, ex: roads with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, ditches, gutters, etc. that are owned or operated by a public entity, townships, counties, hospitals, universities, etc. with jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater or other waste.

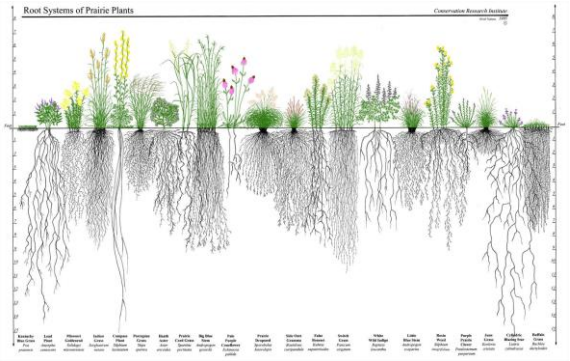
Some facts about Stormwater and the MS4 Program. Stormwater is precipitation (rain or snow) that falls to the ground then flows over land instead of percolating into the ground. *An inch of rain on an acre of land is equivalent to 27,154 gallons of water, and weighs about 113 tons.*

As stormwater moves across developed areas, it picks up garbage, debris, sediment, chemicals, automotive fluids, fertilizers, leaves and other pollutants from parking lots, yards, streets, roofs and other hard surfaces. If untreated, these pollutants enter our waterways.

Stormwater pollution culprits include:
Sediment, oil, grease, toxic chemicals from motor vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns and gardens. Litter and trash from motorists and pedestrians.
Bacteria from pet waste and failing septics.

Preserving Lakes

The township hosts Gilbert Lake, Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Silver Lake, Hackbarth Lake, Lucas Lake, and a number of smaller surface water bodies. It is located within the Milwaukee River and Rock River Watersheds.



Native Landscape

Before our landscape was developed, very little rainfall actually ran off the ground. Most of it soaked into the soil, where it was either used by plants or became part of the groundwater system. Native plants are used in infiltration basins to help replicate some of these conditions. Other benefits of using native plants include:

Creating habitat and food sources for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife. And reducing maintenance needs such as mowing, use of fertilizer.

Rain Barrels – How to Make

1. Install Drain Hole. Drill a hole in a 55-gallon plastic barrel with screw-top lid using a 1” drill bit, 5 inches from the base.
2. Create Overflow Hole. Drill an overflow hole hidden in the back of the barrel 3” from the top using a 1” drill bit.
3. Attach Adapters.
4. Cover the Filter Holes.
5. Install Rain Barrel.

Rain Garden

In a rain garden, native plants help minimize flooding and filter out pollutants. The variety of colors, shapes, and sizes adds beauty to any property.