

# Holmen Stormwater Utility

February, 2008



## Do You Know What's In Our Stormwater?

- ◆ Herbicides & pesticides from lawns
- ◆ Bacteria & viruses from pet waste
- ◆ Nutrients from fertilizers, pet waste, leaves & grass clippings
- ◆ Toxic chemicals from vehicle exhaust & leaks & from illegal dumping
- ◆ Soil from construction sites & farms



These pollutants all flow into our streams, lakes and rivers through our storm sewer system. They can also enter our groundwater through our stormwater retention ponds. Stormwater carries pollutants and nutrients that can turn the streams brown, kill fish, increase weed and algae growth and contaminate groundwater. **Stormwater does not get treated at our wastewater treatment plant.**



## Sources of Pollution Point Source vs. Non-Point Source



**Point source pollution** comes from industrial and municipal sources, like the discharge pipe from the waste water treatment plant. Point source pollution is already regulated, in part by the 1972 Clean Water Act.

**Non-point source (NPS) pollution** comes from stormwater runoff, which carries pollutants from parking lots, streets, and yards. NPS, a significant source of water pollution, is now regulated by new Federal and State laws that address NPS runoff from municipal storm sewer systems and from construction sites. To comply with these new laws, Holmen has formulated a stormwater management plan, created a Stormwater Utility and adopted an erosion control ordinance.

## New Federal & State Regulations

### Holmen must now do the following:

1. Public education & outreach
2. Public involvement & participation
3. Illegal discharge detection & elimination
4. Construction site pollution control
5. Post-construction site stormwater management
6. Pollution prevention
7. Map the storm sewer system & do modeling
8. Reduce total suspended solids in stormwater to improve water quality
9. Implement a stormwater management program
10. Submit annual stormwater report to DNR
11. Pay annual permit fees to DNR

For more information please visit the DNR & EPA web sites:

[http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/faqs.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/faqs.cfm?program_id=6)

[http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/faq\\_sw.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/faq_sw.htm)

**DO YOUR PART!**

- ✓ Limit fertilizer use
- ✓ Pick up pet waste
- ✓ Don't blow grass clippings into streets or alleys
- ✓ Sweep grass clippings from sidewalks & driveways
- ✓ Keep vehicles in good condition to reduce leaks, spills & rust
- ✓ Rake leaves & dispose of at compost site
- ✓ Direct downspouts & sump pumps toward lawns, gardens or flowerbeds
- ✓ Don't dump anything into storm sewers

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE POLLUTION**

To remove grass, leaves, and trash before they are swept into the storm sewers, the Public Works Department is sweeping streets more frequently. The Village is also increasing its maintenance of the storm sewer system, including ditches, catch basins, retention ponds, inlets, manholes and pipes.



**VILLAGE'S PART**

- ✓ Street sweeping
- ✓ Compost site for yard & garden waste disposal
- ✓ Ditch & pond mowing
- ✓ Pond cleaning
- ✓ Storm sewer cleaning & repairs
- ✓ Erosion control enforcement
- ✓ Stormwater management planning
- ✓ Land use planning
- ✓ Public education
- ✓ Testing to detect illegal dumping

**Holmen's New Stormwater Utility**

To finance the cost of complying with the new stormwater regulations, and to protect our local water quality, Holmen has created a Stormwater Utility. All properties will be charged a small fee, and the first bills will go out in March 2008 with water, sewer & trash bills. This new fee will be a flat fee and is **not** based on the valuation of your property. These funds can be used only for stormwater management and will not be subject to political pressures to reallocate their use. With predictable revenues for stormwater management, the Village will be better prepared to plan for and manage future growth.



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!**

We welcome your questions and ideas.

See our website for more information at [www.holmenwi.com](http://www.holmenwi.com)

The UW-Extension office also has some good info at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu.pubs/>

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