

You Can Help

Oshkosh residents and homeowners can help improve the City's stormwater management in the following ways:

- ✓ Direct roof downspouts to grassy areas away from driveways and sidewalks
- ✓ Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash or flush down toilet
- ✓ Build a rain garden or install a rain barrel
- ✓ Wash cars on lawns where the water can soak in or use a car wash
- ✓ Direct sump pump discharge to lawn if possible
- ✓ Keep grass clippings out of the street
- ✓ Test your soil for fertilizer needs and only apply what is needed
- ✓ Do not use storm drains for dumping anything



Continuous Improvement

The City of Oshkosh is working to protect its infrastructure, businesses and homes from damage due to flooding. It is also improving the water quality of its nearby lakes and rivers so that its citizens may boat, fish, swim and enjoy cleaner water.

Additional information on the City's stormwater utility and ways residents can help can be found at: http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Public_Works/Storm_Water_Utility/



For more information please contact:

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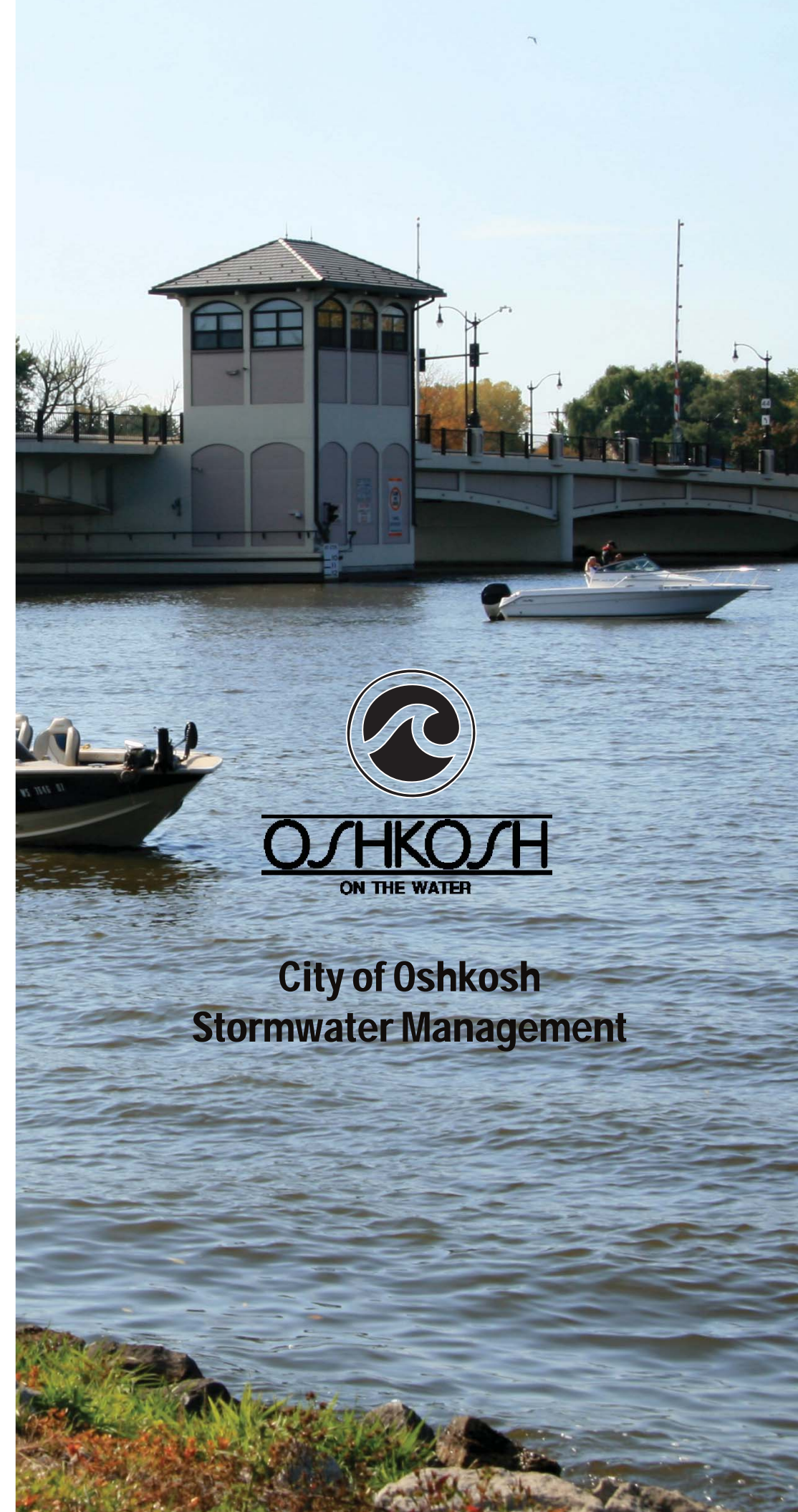
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**City of Oshkosh
Stormwater Management**

What is Stormwater and Why is it Important?

Stormwater is the water that runs off the land's surface when it rains or when snow melts. Stormwater flows onto streets and into storm sewers or ditches and is carried directly into nearby lakes or rivers including Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, Fox River and Sawyer Creek. In Oshkosh, stormwater is important for two reasons:

1. It can flood streets and property.
2. It can carry pollution to lakes and rivers.

Flooding

An impervious surface, such as a driveway, rooftop or street, does not allow the rain to soak into the ground. The amount of impervious surfaces increase when buildings, parking lots, streets and other structures are built on previously vegetated land. Increased impervious surfaces result in more water running off the land and can lead to flooding if not managed properly. Much of the City of Oshkosh is built on flat land. As a result, stormwater tends to pond in depressions on the land's surface, which can lead to nuisance conditions. Stormwater flooding can result in private property damage, hinder emergency vehicle access, endanger public safety and damage roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Pollution

As stormwater flows across driveways, parking lots, lawns, streets and other surfaces, it picks up pollutants along the way. The pollution comes from many sources — oil leaking from vehicles, tire and brake lining wear, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, soil from construction sites, grass clippings, and litter. Stormwater typically runs directly into streams, rivers and lakes. When this pollution reaches the lakes and rivers, it can result in nuisance algae and aquatic weed growth, high bacteria levels, turbid water, toxic levels of metals or petroleum, and low oxygen levels. The City of Oshkosh, like almost all cities in Wisconsin, is under state and federal regulations to reduce stormwater pollution.

City's Stormwater Management Program

The City of Oshkosh has embarked on an aggressive program to improve stormwater management for both flood control and pollution reduction. Stormwater management not only protects safety, property and the environment, it also promotes a strong business climate by maintaining an efficient transportation system.

There is still much work yet to be done. Staff at the City's Department of Public Works develop a Capital Improvement Plan to continue stormwater management improvements. This plan is annually reviewed by the Stormwater Utility Committee and adopted by the City Council. Future projects to enhance stormwater management include:

Armory Site Stormwater Quality and Flood Control Basin

Project Goals: Reduce flooding along Crystal Springs Avenue, 9th Avenue, Sawyer Street and Witzel Avenue. Reduce stormwater pollution.

9th and Washburn Site Stormwater Quality and Flood Control Basin and Storm Sewer Improvements

Project Goals: Reduce flooding along Maricopa Drive, Cumberland Trail, Dickinson Avenue and Highway 41. Reduce stormwater pollution.

James Road Flood Control Basin

Project Goals: This large basin, located west of the City and north of State Highway 91, would improve flood protection along Sawyer Creek.

Sawyer Creek Channel Dredging

Project Goals: Improve the flow capacity of the stream to reduce flooding. Channel dredging between Koeller Street and the Fox River will remove sediment to increase the flow in the channel.

In addition to these listed projects, the City will continue to upgrade the storm sewer system each time a road is reconstructed. These improvements occur annually as roads are upgraded throughout the City. A current list of street projects, including stormwater management

upgrades, can be found on the City's website: http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Public_Works/ Go to the "Capital Improvements" link.

Residents may not notice other ongoing stormwater management programs already in progress. For example, to reduce pollution, the City significantly increased the frequency and timing of street cleaning operations. The City has also increased storm sewer cleaning operations.

Paying for the Stormwater Management Program

These projects are expensive. The City has aggressively pursued state and federal grants to help pay for the projects. Since 2005, the City has secured grants totaling more than \$2.9 million from state and federal sources. The City continues to seek state and federal grants for future projects.

Most funding for the City's stormwater program comes from the Stormwater Utility Fee, which was established in 2002 as a fair and equitable way to pay for the necessary stormwater projects. The fee is paid by every City property owner based upon the amount of impervious surface on each property. The properties with larger impervious areas pay more because these properties discharge more runoff to the storm sewer system. Homeowners pay less in fees because their properties discharge less runoff to the storm sewer system. In 2011, Stormwater Utility Fees generated about \$6.5 million in revenue, which are used to pay the debt on past projects, help fund new projects and finance daily operations.

A brief list of recent projects and accomplishments includes:

Date	Project	Accomplishment
Nov. 2002	Common Council creates a Stormwater Utility fee system	Funding system provides a fair method to generate a consistent revenue source for stormwater needs.
Aug. 2003	Common Council creates Stormwater Utility Appeals Board	Provide guidance to the City's stormwater program.
2005	Anchorage Channel and Fair Acres Stormwater Quality & Flood Control Basin	Flood control along Murdock Avenue / Jackson Street area and along Harrison Street between E. Custer Street & E. Murdock Avenue Also pollution trapped at Fair Acres Mall Area Basin.
Jan. 2007	Wisconsin DNR issues City a stormwater pollution control permit	City is required to meet stormwater pollution control regulations
Dec. 2008	Completion of a City-Wide Stormwater Management Plan	Plan provides a "road map" for the City to reduce stormwater pollution and comply with regulations. The plan also included a storm sewer flow capacity analysis for selected areas of the City to identify potential flooding concerns.
2008	Baldwin Avenue Area Flood Control Basin and storm sewer improvements	Reduce flood frequency in the area of Baldwin Avenue and Grand Street
2009 - 2011	Tipler School Area Flood Control Basin and storm sewer improvements	Reduce flood frequency in area of Landmark Plaza and S. Koeller Street and downstream along Witzel Avenue
2010	City increases the miles of annual road reconstruction and incorporates upgraded storm sewers in each road project.	Road reconstruction projects place more focus on stormwater flood control needs along with other infrastructure improvements.
2010	Melvin Avenue Area storm sewer improvements and stormwater pump station (located in Menominee Park).	Reduce flood frequency along Melvin Avenue between Hazel Street and Jefferson Street
2010	Oakwood Road Area Stormwater Quality & Flood Control Basin	Reduce stormwater pollution and Sawyer Cr. flooding downstream of basin.
2010	North High School Area Stormwater Quality & Flood Control Basin.	Reduce flood frequency in North High School area and stormwater pollution control.
2011	Westhaven Circle Area Stormwater Quality & Flood Control Basin and storm sewer improvements	Reduce flood frequency in Westhaven Circle and Newport Drive area; and stormwater pollution control.
2012	City increases budget to cost-share storm sewer laterals for residential sump pump connection.	Allow more residences to use City storm sewers for sump pump discharge.