



Clean Water Act - Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

The University of Southern Indiana (USI) is situated on approximately three hundred acres of beautiful rolling hills in southwestern Indiana just a few miles north of the Ohio River. The campus has grown, over the last thirty-nine years, from a few buildings to over 75 buildings. Careful planning has enabled this growth to take place while maintaining large forested areas, open green spaces and the construction of 2 large lakes. Storm water from buildings, paved parking areas and undeveloped areas is collected in a storm sewer conveyance system which is directed to the original natural drainage system. The natural drainage of storm water is divided into three watersheds as it leaves the campus. Each watershed flows through unnamed tributaries to Bayou Creek.

Congress enacted the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments in 1972. The Act was amended in 1977 and this law became commonly known as the Clean Water Act. In 1990 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Phase I which covered medium and large MS4s. The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule was is the next step under the Clean Water Act which covers MS4s in urbanized areas, universities, and prisons.

The University of Southern Indiana is included in Phase II MS4s and has implemented a program to assure compliance with regulations promulgated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The information presented here is intended to help the students, staff, and faculty understand the requirements of the Clean Water Act and how to prevent storm water runoff from entering the conveyance system and eventually to the Ohio River.

Storm water runoff flows across planted areas and pavement in the campus. This runoff picks up animal waste, debris, chemicals, dirt, oil drippage, and other pollutants which are carried into the conveyance system and eventually to the Ohio River.

Treating storm water runoff would be difficult and very expensive. A storm water management system in the first place will be more effective, but it requires the cooperation of everyone. Here are some of the most important ways to prevent storm water runoff.

- 💧 Properly dispose of hazardous materials such as used oil, paint, and other chemicals. DO NOT POUR them on the ground or into any part of the storm water conveyance system. Report misconduct to the offices named below.
- 💧 Place trash in proper containers and prevent it from entering the conveyance system and plugging drains.
- 💧 Use fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and road chemicals properly to prevent excessive runoff.

💧 Look for and report any signs of pollution such

