

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The University at Albany Uptown Campus is a regulated non-traditional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), and as such, stormwater discharges must be authorized in accordance with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) General Permit. The University, as the owner/operator of the stormwater system, is required to administer the permit for all related stormwater runoff that impacts the campus. Pollutants that are typically picked up by rainfall runoff patterns from roofs, paved areas, sloped lawns and bare soils, are required to be treated prior to discharge to waterways.

As an owner/operator of a publicly owned storm sewer system, The University, to receive clean water act permit coverage from DEC, must implement a comprehensive stormwater management program. Elements include public awareness, mapping of outfalls, maintenance of facilities, and oversight of construction activity stormwater permits. This program is developed and administered by Facilities Management and the Stormwater Management Committee. It is continually updated and modified to reflect any changing regulations or new development conditions on the campus.

The University at Albany Uptown Campus contains over 470 acres of land that is comprised of buildings, roads, parking lots, recreational and open space. Rainwater from storm events lands on ground surfaces, flows to catch basins, and then enters an underground pipe system. The pipes convey the stormwater to locations such as Indian Pond, or to an off campus pipe systems located in the City of Albany and Town of Guilderland. Some of the rainfall is absorbed by the ground in recreational and open space areas, or is discharged to subsurface infiltration systems.

Indian Pond is an integral component of the campus stormwater management system. Portions of the campus stormwater runoff is directed to Indian Pond and helps control a large portion of rainfall that enters the campus system, especially during heavy storm rainfalls. Runoff is conveyed to Indian Pond by pipe systems where it detains stormwater and aids in protecting downstream systems from flooding. Some of the water stored is used to supply the irrigation system to water the campus lawns. Much of the water remains in the Pond providing a natural and ecological system for plants and habitat. In addition to natural decomposition and absorption of pollutants within the Pond system, the Pond is routinely dredged and the spoils deposited either safely off site or along the banks. Together, the conveyance system and the Pond serve to prevent the pollution of nearby waterways. Management of the Pond and related storm sewer infrastructure is one of many stormwater practices of the University at Albany.

Green Infrastructure practices which utilize infiltration of runoff into the ground, are being employed for current projects as part of the Stormwater Management Policy for the University. Examples of these practices include infiltration of runoff by means of subsurface facilities, porous pavements, rain gardens and green roofs. These practices will reduce the stormwater runoff from the campus that used to go off site to surrounding roads and streams

For construction projects that involve site disturbance, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required. This document provides erosion and sedimentation control measures and post construction treatment facility designs for discharges resulting from construction activity. The goal is to ensure erosion control measures and treatment facilities are in place so that soil sediments do not discharge onto roads and to surface waters during construction activity and after the project is complete.

The University at Albany is a member of the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County. The Coalition is comprised of municipalities located in Albany County, and together with the members, develops the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) and practices, share experiences, watershed information, helps reduce administrative costs and facilitate management of stormwater at the University. Contained in the SWMP are Minimum Control Measures, which include goals for the University pollution control program. The University is required to submit to DEC, an annual report of meeting the goals contained in the SWMP which involve public awareness and education, along with the maintenance practices of the storm sewer system required to meet the permit regulations. This includes mapping of the system, location of outfalls and surface waters, inspections of the campus stormwater facilities, monitoring for illicit discharges, and maintenance of the infrastructure. The annual report is submitted jointly with the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County and is available on the University stormwater website.

For information regarding the University stormwater management, contact Brad Bunzey, Stormwater Management Program Coordinator, Code Administration, at 518-442-3400.