

Stormwater Management and MS4 Program

Website language for the Village of Steger

Recommended location: Add this as a dedicated page under Public Works; keep the existing Public Works page shorter with a direct link to this page.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff is rainwater and snowmelt that flows over streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, rooftops, lawns, and other surfaces. As stormwater flows across these areas, it can pick up pollutants such as oil, grease, sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, leaves, litter, and other materials.

Stormwater is collected through storm sewers, drainage ditches, inlets, culverts, detention areas, and other drainage facilities. This stormwater generally flows untreated to local waterways. Keeping pollutants out of the storm sewer system helps protect water quality, reduce drainage issues, and improve the health of local creeks, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Report a Stormwater Concern

Residents are encouraged to report blocked storm drains, drainage concerns, suspected illicit discharges, illegal dumping, or other stormwater related issues.

Please call:

Village of Steger Public Works (708) 755-3888

Village Hall (708) 754-3395

Outside of office hours, please use the Contact Form on the website.

For emergencies, call 911.

How Residents Can Help

Residents and businesses can help reduce stormwater pollution by following these practices:

- Dispose of trash, litter, and household waste properly.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, branches, and yard waste out of streets, gutters, storm drains, ditches, and detention areas.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and avoid applying them before rain.
- Check vehicles and equipment for leaks and clean up spills immediately.
- Recycle used motor oil and automotive fluids properly.
- Use a commercial car wash or use environmentally friendly soap to wash vehicles.
- Store chemicals, paints, oils, and other materials properly so they cannot leak or wash into stormwater.
- Do not dump, drain, wash, or discharge pollutants into storm drains, ditches, detention areas, creeks, or streets.
- Direct downspouts to lawn or landscaped areas where feasible.
- Report illegal dumping or suspicious discharges.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

The Village of Steger is regulated as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, also known as an MS4. An MS4 is a publicly owned storm sewer system that collects and conveys stormwater and discharges to creeks and rivers. This system is separate from the sanitary sewer system and does not discharge to a wastewater treatment plant.

Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency requires regulated MS4 communities to develop, implement, and maintain a Stormwater Management Program. The purpose of the program is to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the maximum extent practicable and to help protect water quality.

Steger's Stormwater Management Program

The Village's Stormwater Management Program addresses the following six minimum control measures:

- Public education and outreach
- Public involvement and participation
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Post construction runoff control
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations

The Village's program includes various best management practices in each of these categories intended to reduce pollutants entering the storm sewer system.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except for certain allowable discharges such as firefighting activities.

Examples of prohibited discharges include:

- Motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, or automotive fluids
- Paint, solvents, cleaning chemicals, or household hazardous waste
- Grass clippings, leaves, branches, or yard waste placed in streets, gutters, inlets, ditches, or detention areas
- Sediment, concrete washout, mortar, or construction debris
- Pet waste
- Trash or litter

MS4 Documents

The following documents provide additional information regarding the Village's MS4 program:

- Storm Water Management Plan ([link, document was emailed](#))
- MS4 Annual Report ([link, document was emailed](#))
- MS4 NOI Renewal ([link, document was emailed](#))
- Environmental Justice Community Report ([link, document was emailed](#))
- Cook County Household Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet ([link, document was emailed](#))

Additional Resources

For additional stormwater, recycling, hazardous waste, and water quality information, residents may also refer to resources from Cook County, Will County, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and local watershed organizations.