

St. Clair County Watershed Advisory Group for the
Black River, Lake Huron, St. Clair River, Pine River, Belle River and Anchor Bay Watersheds

Stormwater Permit Program 2025 Update

Regulatory Compliance and Accomplishments

- The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) reissued NPDES Stormwater Permits in 2025 to all eleven of the twelve St Clair County Watershed Advisory Group members. All members now have active issued permits that will be in effect until 2028.
- The SCCHD continued to update the **Stormwater webpage**. This page houses watershed partner resources, educational resources and other relevant information and documents. Updates to the page include fillable forms for documentation and digital resources for the public education plan (PEP). There is also a recorded Wet Weather Screening presentation available. Visit the page at:
stclaircounty.org/PageBuilder/scchd/Offices/587?pageparent=552&meid=1291.
- **Eight public beaches were monitored by the SCCHD for water quality** from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The results were reported on the state's BeachGuard website, shared through social media, posted to the health department's Beaches Facebook page, listed on the Water Quality Tipline and sent out as media releases. This season presented several storm events that are believed to have contributed to beach closures. The SCCHD provided outreach and education to improve water quality at beaches.
- **The Stormwater program developed new educational water quality programs** and resources for school-aged children. There are now seven programs available for classroom presentations. These programs are provided to schools, classrooms and community events at no cost. Programs are funded through MS4 Public Education Plan.
- The SCCHD Stormwater program **participated in Earth Fair and Sturgeon Fest**. More than 4,000 participants were seen.
- The Stormwater program collaborated with the Friends of the St. Clair River in the **Watershed Pen Pals** education program. One new education program was developed for hands-on watershed education within the classroom.
- The Health Department hosted the **first annual MS4 training** in June. This training will be available annually to all MS4 partners and is required once within the first year of hire and every five years for program participants. A certificate of attendance is available for all that attend.
- The SCCHD **opened a laboratory** in July. This lab is available to run wet weather samples.
- In partnership with the St. Clair County Parks Department, the Pine River Nature Center, and Friends of the St. Clair River, the SCCHD launched the **Watershed Passport** (<https://stclaircounty.org/PageBuilder/scchd/Offices/974>). This is a guide to family-friendly locations within our watershed that promotes environmental awareness and connects residents to the watershed. Available both in print and digital copies, through partnering organizations and our website.

For questions about St. Clair County's stormwater permit program, please contact the:

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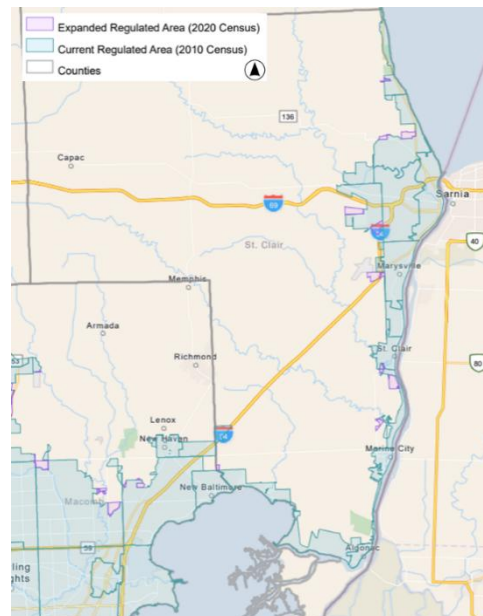
Program Update Purpose

- The purpose of this update is to ensure decision makers and elected officials are informed about St. Clair County's stormwater permit activities in 2025.
- This update is required for participation in St. Clair County's NPDES MS4 Watershed Advisory Group led by the St. Clair County Health Department. - - - - - ➔
- As a dues-paying member of this Group, we collaborate with 18 St. Clair County municipalities and school districts to share stormwater permit costs, implement activities, submit reports, assist with audits, and meet federal mandates from the Clean Water Act.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Stormwater Program

- The regulations governing our stormwater come from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is part of the Federal Clean Water Act to eliminate pollutants entering our waterways. Our stormwater permit is administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).
- We are required to demonstrate a reduction in water pollution and improvement of the quality of our waterways. The largest source of non-point source pollution is stormwater runoff from urban areas and impervious surfaces.
- Our community falls within the **urbanized area** (see map). The State has jurisdiction over our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in our urbanized area, which sends stormwater to waters of the state (i.e., stream, river, wetland, etc.) or to an adjacent jurisdiction's MS4. The urbanized area is based off current 2020 census and is available to [view digitally here](#).



St Clair County regulated urbanized area map

Permit Requirements

Our required activities are listed in our Stormwater Management Plan. The activities listed in our Plan are enforced and audited by EGLE. Compliance activities have been issued in our updated NPDES MS4 Individual permit.