

CHAPTER 53 STORM SEWER

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§ 53.01 DEFINITIONS

Best Management Practices (BMPs). Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to storm water, receiving waters, or storm water conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Clean Water Act. The federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Hazardous Materials. Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Illicit Discharge. Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system.

Illicit Connections. An illicit connection is defined as either of the following:

- Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface that allows an illegal discharge to enter the storm drain system including but not limited to any conveyances that allow any non-storm water discharge including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency or,
- Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drain system that has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The system of conveyances (including sidewalks, roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) owned and operated by the City and designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water, and that is not used for collecting or conveying sewage.

N.P.D.E.S. Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit). The system for issuing, conditioning, and denying permits for the discharge of pollutants from point sources into the navigable waters, the contiguous zone, and the oceans by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, §§ 402 and 405, as they may be amended from time to time.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit. Means a permit issued by EPA (or by a State under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

Non-Storm Water Discharge. Any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water.

Pollutant. Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes, and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordinances, and accumulations, so that same may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

Storm Drainage System. Publicly-owned facilities by which storm water is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

Storm Water. Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

Storm Water Management Plan. A document which describes the Best Management Practices and activities to be implemented by a person or business to identify sources of pollution or contamination at a site and the actions to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges to Storm Water, Storm Water Conveyance Systems, and/or Receiving Waters to the Maximum Extent Practicable.

Wastewater. Any water or other liquid, other than uncontaminated storm water, discharged from a facility.

Waste Water (Sanitary Sewer Systems). The spent water of a community; from the standpoint of source, it may be a combination of the liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions, together with any ground water, surface water, and storm water that may be present.

§ 53.015 STORM SEWER DRAINAGE UTILITY

(A) *Statutory authority.* M.S. § 444.075, as it may be amended from time to time, authorizes cities to impose just and reasonable charges for the use and availability of storm sewer facilities (“charges”). By this section, the City elects to exercise such authority.

(B) *Findings and determinations.* In providing for such charges, the findings and determinations set out in this division are made.

(1) In the exercise of its governmental authority and in order to promote the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare, the City has constructed, operated and maintained a storm sewer system (“the system”). This section is adopted in the further exercise of such authority and for the same purpose.

(2) The system as constructed heretofore has been financed and paid for through the imposition of special assessments and ad valorem taxes. Such financing methods were appropriate to the circumstances at the time they were used. It is now necessary and desirable to provide an alternative method of recovering some or all of the future costs of improving, maintaining and operating the system through the imposition of charges as provided in this section.

(3) In imposing charges it is necessary to establish a methodology that undertakes to make them just and equitable. Taking into account the status of completion of the system, past methods of recovering system costs, the topography of the City and other relevant factors, it is determined that it would be just and equitable to assign responsibility for some or all of the future costs of operating, maintaining and improving the system on the basis of the expected storm water runoff from the various parcels of land within the City during a standard five year rainfall event.

(4) Assigning costs and making charges based upon expected typical storm water runoff cannot be done with mathematical precision but can only be accomplished within reasonable and practical limits. The provisions of this section undertake to establish a reasonable and practicable methodology for making such charges.

(C) *Rates and charges.*

(1) *Residential equivalent factor.* Rates and charges for the use and availability of the system shall be determined through the use of a “Residential Equivalent Factor” (REF). For the purposes of this section, one REF is defined as the average volume of surface water runoff coming from a typical single family residential lot of .35 acres of land and 25% impervious surface.

(2) *Determination of REF’s - Non-Single Family Residential Properties.* REF’s for all land uses other than single family residential uses shall be based on the percentage of impervious surface of the property in accordance with Appendix C of the Storm Water Utility Report dated April 17, 2000.

(3) *Delinquent Accounts.*

(a) A late payment penalty of 5 (five) percent, with a minimum of \$5.00, shall be assessed on all accounts with a past due balance. If any bill is not paid by the due date listed on the bill, the balance due will be added to the next billing cycle. If a delinquent account reaches a balance of \$200 or more, the City will follow the special assessment process to levy the charges against the property.

(b) **Certification for collection with taxes.** Unpaid charges on storm sewer shall not be certified to the county auditor until notice and an opportunity for a hearing have been provided to the owner of the premises involved. The notice shall be sent by first class mail and shall state that if payment is not made before the date for certification, the entire amount unpaid plus penalties will be certified to the county auditor for collection as other taxes are collected. The notice shall also state that the occupant may, before such certification date, attend or schedule a hearing on the matter to object to certification of unpaid utility charges.

In addition to any penalties provided for in this ordinance if any person, firm or corporation fails to comply with any provision or this ordinance, the Council or any City official designated by it, may institute appropriate proceedings at law or at equity to procure payment.

(c) **Hearing.** A hearing shall be held on the matter by the City Council. Property owners with unpaid storm sewer charges shall have the opportunity to object to the certification of unpaid charges to be collected as taxes are collected. If, after the hearing, the City Council finds that the amounts claimed as delinquent are actually due and unpaid and that there is no legal reason why the unpaid charges should not be certified for collection with taxes in accordance with this ordinance, the City may certify the unpaid charges to the county auditor for collection as other taxes are collected.

(1) **Hearing options.** For each certification sustained, the property owner shall have the following options after the hearing,

(a) To pay the delinquent amount listed on the preliminary roll prior to the certification being delivered to the County for inclusion on the tax rolls.

(b) To pay the certified charges as billed to them by Isanti County on their property tax statement with a collection term of one year.

(c) **Delivery to County.** Prior to December 1 of each year the certified roll, minus any payments, shall be delivered to Isanti County.

(d) **Optional payment before certification.** The owner of the property shall have the option of paying the balance due on the account until the date the notice of the certification hearing is mailed. After the date the notice of certification hearing is mailed, payments will still be accepted but will include unpaid penalties.

(D) *Establishing basic rate.* In determining charges, the Council shall, from time to time, by resolution or ordinance establish a basic system rate to be charged against a typical single family residence. The charge to be made against all other land uses shall be made in accordance with division (C)(2).

(E) *Standardized acreage.* For the purpose of simplifying and equalizing charges against property used for single-family purposes, such properties shall be considered to have an acreage of .35 acres.

(F) *Adjustments of charges.* The City Council may by resolution, from time to time, adopt policies providing for the adjustment of charges for parcels or groups of parcels, based upon hydrologic data supplied by affected property owners, demonstrating an actual hydrologic response substantially different from the REF being used for the parcel or parcels. Such adjustment shall be made only after receiving the recommendation of the City Administrator or his or her designee and shall not be made effective retroactively.

(G) *Excluded lands.* No charge for system availability or service shall be made against land which is either (i) public street right-of-way; (ii) vacant and unimproved with substantially all of its surface having vegetation as ground cover or (iii) land owned by the City.

(H) *Supplying information.* The owner, occupant or person in charge of any premises shall supply the City with such information as the City may reasonably request related to the use, development and area of the premises. Willful failure to provide such information or to falsify it is a violation of this section.

(I) *Estimated charges.* If the owner, occupant or person in charge of any premises fails or refuses to provide the information requested, as provided in division (H), the charge for such premises shall be estimated and billed in accordance with such estimate, based upon information then available to the City.

(J) *Drainage and erosion control.*

(1) *Drainage plan.* In the development, improvement or alteration of land, the direction, quantity or quality of drainage shall not be changed unless plans for the development are submitted to the City Engineer, and are found to be in compliance with the City's storm water management policies. Run-off shall be properly channeled into a storm drain, watercourse, ponding area or other public facility.

(2) *Erosion and sediment control plan.* Prior to the issuance of a building or grading permit for any development, improvement or alteration of land, a plan for erosion and sedimentation control shall be presented with the site plan. The erosion and sedimentation control plan shall specify

the measures to be used before, during and after construction until the soil and slope are stabilized by permanent cover. These control measures shall be maintained in good working order until site stabilization occurs.

(3) *Approval.* Plans and provisions required for compliance with this section must be submitted to the Community Development Director for approval.

§ 53.02 ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND CONNECTION PURPOSE

The general purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the public through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the storm drainage system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the MS4 permit issued to the City of Cambridge by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objections of this ordinance are:

(1) To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the MS4 by storm water discharges by any user;

(2) To prohibit illicit connections and discharges to the MS4;

(3) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance, monitoring, and enforcement procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

§ 53.03 APPLICABILITY

This ordinance shall apply to all water entering the storm drainage system generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted.

§ 53.04 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this ordinance, all terms, phrases, words, and their derivatives shall have the meanings as stated in Chapter 53.01 of the City Code.

§ 53.05 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

The City of Cambridge shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Any powers granted or duties imposed upon the City of Cambridge may be delegated by the City Administrator to persons or entities acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the City.

§ 53.06 COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER REGULATIONS

This ordinance is not intended to modify or repeal any other ordinance, rule, regulation, or other provision of law. The requirements of this ordinance are in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance, rule, regulation, or other provision of law, and where any provision of this ordinance

imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other ordinance, rule, regulation, or other provision of law, whichever provision is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human health or the environment shall control.

§ 53.07 ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY

The standards set forth herein and promulgated pursuant to this ordinance are minimum standards; therefore this ordinance does not intend or imply that compliance by any person will ensure that there will be no contamination, pollution, or unauthorized discharge of pollutants.

§ 53.08 DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

(A) Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

(1) No person shall throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the MS4 any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than storm water. The commencement, conduct or continuance of any illegal discharge to the storm drain system is prohibited except as described as follows:

- a) The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this ordinance: water line flushing, landscape irrigation, diverted stream flows, rising groundwater, uncontaminated groundwater infiltration, uncontaminated pumped groundwater, discharges from potable water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensation, irrigation water, springs, water from crawl space pumps, footing drains, lawn watering, individual residential car washing, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, street wash water, dechlorinated swimming pool water, and any other water source not containing a pollutant.
 - (i) For swimming pool discharges, water shall sit seven (7) days without the addition of chlorine to allow for chlorine to evaporate before discharge.
 - (ii) Discharge of swimming pools, crawl spaces, sump pumps, footing drains and other sources that may be determined to contain sediment or other forms or pollutants may NOT be discharged directly to a gutter or storm sewer. This discharge must be allowed to flow over a vegetated area to allow filtering of pollutants, evaporation of chemicals and infiltration of water consistent with the storm water requirements of the City of Cambridge.
- b) Discharges or flow from firefighting, and other discharges specified in writing by the City of Cambridge as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
- c) Discharges associated with dye testing, however this activity requires a written notification to the City of Cambridge prior to the time of the test.
- d) The prohibition shall not apply to any non-storm water discharge permitted under an NPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and

administered under the authority of the MPCA, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the storm drain system.

(B) Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

- (1) The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the storm drain system is prohibited.
- (2) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
- (3) A person is considered to be in violation of this ordinance if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.
- (4) Improper connections in violation of this ordinance must be disconnected and redirected, if necessary, to an approved onsite wastewater management system.
- (5) Any drain or conveyance that has not been documented in plans, maps or equivalent, and which may be connected to the storm sewer system, shall be located by the owner or occupant of that property upon receipt of written notice of violation from the City of **Cambridge** requiring that such locating be completed. Such notice will specify a reasonable time period within which the location of the drain or conveyance is to be determined, that the drain or conveyance be identified as storm sewer, sanitary sewer or other, and that the outfall location or point of connection to the storm sewer system, sanitary sewer system or other discharge point be identified. Results of these investigations are to be documented and provided to the City.

(C) Additional Discharge Prohibitions: Any owner or occupant of property within the City shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Subsurface sewage treatment systems shall be maintained to prevent failure.
- (2) Recreational vehicle sewage shall be disposed of to a proper sanitary waste facility.
- (3) Mobile washing companies (carpet cleaning, mobile vehicle washing, etc.) shall dispose of wastewater to the sanitary sewer.
- (4) All motor vehicle parking lots and private streets shall be swept, at a minimum, once a year in the spring to remove debris. Such debris shall be collected and properly disposed.
- (5) Fuel, chemical residue, household hazardous waste or other types of potentially harmful material shall be disposed of properly.

- (6) Objects, such as motor vehicle parts, containing grease, oil or other hazardous substances, and unsealed receptacles containing hazardous materials, shall not be stored in areas susceptible to runoff.
- (7) Any machinery or equipment that is to be repaired or maintained in areas susceptible to runoff shall be placed in a confined area to contain leaks, spills or discharges.

§ 53.09 WATERCOURSE PROTECTION

Every person owning property through which a watercourse passes, or such person’s lessee, shall keep and maintain that part of the watercourse within the property free of trash, debris, yard waste, excessive vegetation, and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate, or significantly retard the flow of water through the watercourse. In addition, the owner or lessee shall maintain existing privately owned structures within or adjacent to a watercourse, so that such structures will not become a hazard to the use, function, or physical integrity of the watercourse.

§ 53.10 INDUSTRIAL OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY DISCHARGES

Submission of Notice of Intent (NOI) to the City of Cambridge. Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity NPDES storm water discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit is required in a form acceptable to the City prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

Industrial activity includes activities subject to NPDES Industrial Storm Water Permits as defined in 40 CFR, Section 122.26 (b)(14). *Construction activity* includes activities subject to NPDES Construction Permits. These include construction projects resulting in land disturbance of one acre or more. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

The operator of a facility, including construction sites, required to have an NPDES permit to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity shall submit a copy of the NOI to the City at the same time the operator submits the original NOI to the EPA as applicable.

The copy of the NOI must be delivered to the City either in person or by certified mail to:

Utilities Director
City of Cambridge
300 3rd Avenue NE
Cambridge, MN 55008

A person commits an offense if the person operates a facility that is discharging storm water associated with industrial activity without having submitted a copy of the NOI to do so to the City of Cambridge.

§ 53.11 REQUIREMENT TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND REDUCE STORM WATER POLLUTANTS BY THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The City of Cambridge will adopt requirements identifying best management practices for any activity, operation, or facility which may cause or contribute to pollution or contamination of storm water, the storm drain system, or waters of the United States. The owner or operator of such activity, operation, or facility shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses through the use of these structural and non-structural BMPs. Further, any person responsible for a property or premise that is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge, may be required to implement, at said person’s expense, additional structural and non-structural BMPs to prevent the further discharge of pollutants to the MS4. Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid NPDES permit authorizing the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this ordinance. These BMPs shall be part of a storm water management plan (SWMP) as necessary for compliance with requirements of the NPDES permit.

§ 53.12 NOTIFICATION OF SPILLS

Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting or may result in illegal discharges or pollutants discharging into storm water, the storm drain system, or waters of the United States, said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials said person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services. In the event of a release of non-hazardous materials, said person shall notify the City in person or by phone no later than the next business day. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Failure to provide notification of a release as provided above is a violation of this ordinance.

§ 53.13 RIGHT OF ENTRY

The City shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities subject to regulation under this ordinance as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this ordinance, including the right to set up, or require facilities owner to set up devices necessary to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facilities storm water discharge.

§ 53.14 ENFORCEMENT / PENALTIES

The City shall be responsible for enforcing this ordinance. Any person, firm or corporation failing to comply with or violating any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and each day during which any violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance is committed, continued or permitted, shall constitute a separate offense. All land use and building permits shall be suspended until the applicant has corrected any and all violations.

§ 53.15 EMERGENCY CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS

When the City finds that any person has violated, or continues to violate, any provision of this ordinance, or any order issued hereunder, or that the person's past violations are likely to recur, and that the person's violation(s) has (have) caused or contributed to an actual or threatened discharge to the MS4 or waters of the state which reasonably appears to present an imminent or substantial endangerment to the health or welfare of persons or to the environment, the City may issue an order to the violator directing it immediately to cease and desist all such violations.

§ 53.16 SUSPENSION DUE TO THE DETECTION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Any person discharging to the MS4 in violation of this ordinance may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. Such suspension may also be imposed if it is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger.

§ 53.17 VIOLATIONS DEEMED A PUBLIC NUISANCE

In addition to the enforcement processes and penalties provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and is declared and deemed a nuisance, and may be summarily abated or restored at the violator's expense; and/or a civil action to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken.

§ 53.18 SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any provision of this ordinance or the application of any provision of this ordinance to any circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.