

Storm Water Fact Sheet



Neighbors Committed to an Exceptional Quality of Life

Introduction

In late 2011, Nixa City Council appointed 22 citizens to serve on two new advisory committees: Parks (11 citizens) and Storm Water (11 citizens). These committees were formed to gather citizen input because both parks and storm water directly affect Nixa residents' quality of life. The more feedback Council receives prior to making decisions and investments, the better the chance those decisions will suit the majority of Nixa residents.

Storm Water Regulations

Many people think that storm water issues revolve only around flooding, but that's just not true. **Here are some facts about storm water regulations:**

- ✓ Nixa is now responsible for complying with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mandated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations. This federal mandate comes from the U.S. Clean Water Act, and is intended to protect and preserve the quality of all waters in the country, including Nixa's two water bodies: the Finley and James. If we fail to comply with the regulations, we are subject to penalties, which makes the entire community accountable to EPA's rules.
- ✓ Nixa was obligated to comply with the second phase of MS4 requirements following the 2000 U.S. Census. Nixa received, its first MS4 permit in 2007 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Our current permit expires on June 12, 2013.
- ✓ The EPA mandate requires, at a minimum, that Nixa comply with the following six control measures:
 - Public education and outreach on storm water impacts
 - Public involvement and participation
 - Illicit discharge detention and elimination
 - Construction site storm water run-off controls
 - Post construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment
 - Pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations
- ✓ DNR requires annual monitoring, record keeping and report submission. As a result, city staff is responsible for monitoring all storm water discharge from 51 storm water outfalls in and throughout Nixa's incorporated area, 52 public properties, 35 active land disturbance permits and 731 commercial illicit discharge properties.

Flooding

Regardless of these new regulations, the city still has storm water flooding issues. Nixa's problems stem from the lack of storm water regulations prior to 1987. Since this time, Nixa's storm water regulations have become more stringent. Starting in 1987, design parameters were adopted for the 10-year storm event standard. In 1991, the city adopted a 25-year storm event, and in 1994, the city adopted the now current 100-year storm event, which is a national standard. In each instance, the engineered designed parameter took into consideration the probability of a rainfall event within the specified time frame. Any rainfall that exceeds the design parameter will, and does, cause flooding.

A Community Problem

Flooding is no longer a problem that just affects the property owner at the bottom of the hill; the regulations now make it the entire community's problem. Storm water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants that ultimately flow into our water bodies. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for recreation and potentially into our drinking water. The MS4 regulations mandate that storm water shall no longer allow for illicit discharge(s) into these bodies of water.

Funding & Management

Funding is in place for maintenance, repair and upkeep for every utility service provided in Nixa except storm water. Residents of Nixa have never authorized the collection of money to address storm water concerns. Due to the unavailability of money, the city has seldom accepted the responsibility of managing the storm water systems. With the new EPA mandate, management of the systems is a must, and the citizens are left with an unfunded mandate that we all are responsible for addressing.

Nixa requires approval of storm water engineering plans in conformance with city regulations. But once the storm water system is built, either the property owner or the homeowners' association is responsible for the operation.

Currently, one city employee handles all of these responsibilities. The employee was hired as the Public Works inspector for water, sewer and street construction projects. It is only as a result of the downturn in development that he has time to devote to storm water mandates. His wages and benefits come from the Public Works budget, however the department funds weren't intended to pay for storm water management. Using the department's revenues to pay for storm water reduces the amount that was intended for its operations (water, sewer and streets).

Storm Water Committee

The Storm Water Committee is charged with assisting City Council in discussing the creation of a storm water fund. For the city to fully comply with the EPA regulations and to address the city-wide flooding issues, an available source of revenue is necessary.

Committee members include:

- Robin Beck
- Melissa Bettles
- Rick Brooks
- Rev. Phil Brucks
- Travis Cossey
- Lyle Davis
- Jay Godwin
- Steve Gregory
- Clayton Hines
- Art Maddock
- Danny Newell
- Larry Owen
- Jack Stinson

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