

**CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA
STEARNS COUNTY MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS OF STORM SEWER USE
(ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND CONNECTION ORDINANCE)**

In the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, the City Council of St. Augusta, Minnesota hereby ordains:

STORM SEWER USE CODE

Section 1 Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of St. Augusta 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 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this ordinance are:

- A. To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the MS4 by storm water discharges by any user.
- B. To prohibit illicit connections and discharges to the MS4.
- C. To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance, monitoring, and enforcement procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

Section 2 Definitions. For the purposes of this ordinance, the following shall mean:

Authorized Enforcement Agency. Employees or designees of the City of St. Augusta designated to enforce this ordinance.

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.

Construction Activity. Activities subject to NPDES Construction Permits. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

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.

Illegal Discharge. Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system, except as exempted in Section X.08 of this ordinance.

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

- i. 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,
- ii. 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.

Industrial Activity. Activities subject to NPDES Industrial Storm Water Permits.

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 of St. Augusta and designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water, and that is not used for collecting or conveying sewage.

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.

Person. Any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

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.

Premises. Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

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.

Section 3 **Applicability.** This ordinance shall apply to all water entering the storm drain system generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by the City of St. Augusta.

Section 4 **Responsibility for Administration.** The City of St. Augusta shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Any powers granted or duties imposed upon the City of St. Augusta may be delegated in writing by the St. Augusta City Administrator of the City of St. Augusta to persons or entities acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the City of St. Augusta.

Section 5 **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.

Section 6 **Severability.** The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this ordinance.

Section 7 **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.

Section 8 **Discharge Prohibitions.**

A. Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

1. No person shall directly or indirectly discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to directly or indirectly discharge into the MS4 any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than storm water.
2. 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 ground waters, uncontaminated ground water infiltration, uncontaminated pumped ground water, 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, de-chlorinated swimming pool discharges, and street wash water.
 - b. Discharges or flow from firefighting, and other discharges specified in writing by the City of St. Augusta as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
 - c. Discharges associated with dye testing; however this activity requires a verbal notification to the City of St. Augusta 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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 or the sanitary sewer system upon approval of the City of St. Augusta.
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 St. Augusta 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 of St. Augusta.

Section 9 Watercourse Protection. Every person owning property through which a watercourse passes and/or contains a stormwater inlet or catch basin, or such person's lessee, shall keep and maintain that part of the watercourse and/or stormwater inlet or catch basin within the property free of trash, debris, 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.

Section 10 Industrial or Construction Activity Discharges. Submission of Notice of Coverage/Authorization to the City of St. Augusta.

- A. 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 may be required in a form acceptable to the City of St. Augusta prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

- B. The operator of a facility, including construction sites, required to have an NPDES permit to discharge storm water associated with industrial or construction activity shall submit a copy of the coverage notification or notification of permit authorization to the City of St. Augusta.
- C. The copy of the coverage notification or notification of permit authorization may be delivered to the City of St. Augusta either in person or by mailing it to:

City of St. Augusta
Attn: City Administrator
1914 250th Street
St. Augusta, MN 56301

- D. A person commits an offense if the person operates a facility that is discharging storm water associated with industrial or construction activity without having submitted a copy of the coverage notification or notification of permit authorization to do so to the City of St. Augusta.

Section 11 Compliance Monitoring.

- A. **Right of Entry: Inspection and Sampling.** The City of St. Augusta 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.
 - 1. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to representatives of the City of St. Augusta.
 - 2. Facility operators shall allow the City of St. Augusta ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, examination and copying of records that must be kept under the conditions of an NPDES permit to discharge storm water, and the performance of any additional duties as defined by state and federal law.
 - 3. The City of St. Augusta shall have the right to set up on any permitted facility such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the City of St. Augusta to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge.
 - 4. The City of St. Augusta has the right to require the discharger to install monitoring equipment as necessary. The facility's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger. Sampling and monitoring activities and equipment, including installation, maintenance, and removal shall be at the discharger's own expense. All devices used to measure storm water flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.
 - 5. Any temporary or permanent obstruction to safe and easy access to the facility to be inspected and/or sampled shall be promptly removed by the operator at the written or oral request of the City of St. Augusta and shall not be replaced. The costs of clearing such access shall be borne by the operator.
 - 6. Unreasonable delays in allowing the City of St. Augusta access to a permitted facility is a violation of a storm water discharge permit and of this ordinance. A person who is the operator of

a facility with an NPDES permit to discharge storm water associated with industrial or construction activity commits an offense if the person denies the City of St. Augusta reasonable access to the permitted facility for the purpose of conducting any activity authorized or required by this ordinance.

- B. Search Warrants. If the City of St. Augusta has been refused access to any part of the premises from which storm water is discharged, and he/she is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this ordinance, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this ordinance or any order issued hereunder, or to protect the overall public health, safety, and welfare of the community, then the City of St. Augusta may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 12 Requirement to Prevent, Control and Reduce Storm Water Pollutants by the Use of Best Management Practices. The owner or operator of 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 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 structural and non-structural Best Management Practices. 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 or construction activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this section. These BMPs shall be part of a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) as necessary for compliance with requirements of the NPDES permit.

Section 13 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, at their own expense. 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 of St. Augusta in person or by phone or email no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by phone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the City of St. Augusta within two (2) business days of the phone notice. 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. Such records shall be retained for at least three (3) years. Failure to provide notification of a release as provided above is a violation of this ordinance.

Section 14 Violations, Enforcement, and Penalties.

- A. Violations. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this ordinance. Any person who has violated or continues to violate the provisions of this ordinance, may be subject to the enforcement actions outlined in this section or may be restrained by injunction or otherwise abated in a manner provided by law.

In the event the violation constitutes an immediate danger to public health or public safety, the City of St. Augusta is authorized to enter upon the subject private property, without giving prior notice, to take any and all measures necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. The City of St. Augusta is authorized to seek costs of the abatement as outlined in [Section X.21](#).

- B. **Warning Notice.** When the City of St. Augusta finds that any person has violated, or continues to violate, any provision of this ordinance, or any order issued hereunder, the City of St. Augusta may serve upon that person a written Warning Notice, specifying the particular violation believed to have occurred and requesting the discharger to immediately investigate the matter and to seek a resolution whereby any offending discharge will cease. Investigation and/or resolution of the matter in response to the Warning Notice in no way relieves the alleged violator of liability for any violations occurring before or after receipt of the Warning Notice. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the City of St. Augusta to take any action, including emergency action or any other enforcement action, without first issuing a Warning Notice.

- C. **Notice of Violation.** Whenever the City of St. Augusta finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this Ordinance, the City of St. Augusta may order compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person. Such notice may require without limitation, at their own expense: :
 - 1. The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
 - 2. The elimination of illicit connections or discharges;
 - 3. That violating discharges, practices, or operations shall cease and desist;
 - 4. The abatement or remediation of storm water pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property; and
 - 5. Payment of a fine to cover administrative and remediation costs; and
 - 6. The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs.

If abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property is required, the notice shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said notice shall further advise that, should the violator fail to remediate or restore within the established deadline, the work will be done by a designated governmental agency or a contractor and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

Section 15 Costs. In addition to the other penalties provided herein, the City may recover engineering fees, court costs, court reporter's fees, attorney fees, and other expenses of litigation or enforcement by an appropriate action against the person or entity found to have violated this ordinance or the orders, rules, regulations, and permits issued hereunder.

Section 16 Suspension of MS4 Access.

- A. **Emergency Cease and Desist Orders.** When the City of St. Augusta 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 United States which reasonably appears to present an imminent or substantial endangerment to the health or welfare of persons or to the environment, the City of St. Augusta may issue an order to the violator directing it immediately to cease and desist all such violations and directing the violator to:

1. Immediately comply with all ordinance requirements; and
 2. Take such appropriate preventive action as may be needed to properly address a continuing or threatened violation, including immediately halting operations and/or terminating the discharge.
- B. Any person notified of an emergency order directed to it under this Subsection shall immediately comply and stop or eliminate its endangering discharge. In the event of a discharger's failure to immediately comply voluntarily with the emergency order, the City of St. Augusta may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize harm to the MS4 or waters of the United States, and/or endangerment to persons or to the environment, including immediate termination of a facility's water supply, sewer connection, or other municipal utility services. The City of St. Augusta may allow the person to recommence its discharge when it has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the City of St. Augusta that the period of endangerment has passed, unless further termination proceedings are initiated against the discharger under this ordinance. A person that is responsible, in whole or in part, for any discharge presenting imminent endangerment shall submit a detailed written statement, describing the causes of the harmful discharge and the measures taken to prevent any future occurrence, to the City of St. Augusta within five (5) days of receipt of the emergency order. Issuance of an emergency cease and desist order shall not be a bar against, or a prerequisite for, taking any other action against the violator.
- C. Suspension due to Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations. The City of St. Augusta may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, or to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4 or waters of the United States. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an emergency, the City of St. Augusta may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or waters of the United States, or to minimize danger to persons.
- D. 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. The City of St. Augusta will notify a violator of the proposed termination of its MS4 access. The violator may petition the City of St. Augusta for a reconsideration and hearing.
- E. A person commits an offense if the person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the City of St. Augusta.

Section 17 Civil Penalties. In the event the alleged violator fails to take the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or otherwise fails to cure the violations described therein within ten (10) days, or such greater period as the City of St. Augusta shall deem appropriate, after the City of St. Augusta has taken one or more of the actions described above, the City of St. Augusta may impose a penalty not to exceed \$ 1,000.00 (depending on the severity of the violation) for each day the violation remains un-remedied after receipt of the notice of violation.

Section 18 Criminal Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$ 1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not to exceed ninety (90) days or both.

Section 19 Appeal of Notice of Violation. Any person receiving a Notice of Violation may appeal the determination of the City of St. Augusta. The notice of appeal must be received within thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Violation, except in the instance where a Cease and Desist Order is issued as described in Section X.14, then the notice of appeal must be received within ten (10) days from the date of the Cease and Desist Order. Hearing on the appeal before the appropriate authority or his/her designee shall take place within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the notice of appeal. The decision of the municipal authority or their designee shall be final.

Section 20 Enforcement Measures after Appeal. If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Notice of Violation, or, in the event of an appeal, within ten (10) days of the decision of the municipal authority upholding the decision of the City of St. Augusta, then representatives of the City of St. Augusta shall enter upon the subject private property and are authorized to take any and all measures necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the government agency or designated contractor to enter upon the premises for the purposes set forth above.

Section 21 Cost of Abatement of the Violation. Within forty-five (45) days after abatement of the violation, the owner of the property will be notified of the cost of abatement, including administrative costs. The property owner may file a written protest objecting to the amount of the assessment within thirty (30) days. If the amount due is not paid within a timely manner as determined by the decision of the municipal authority or by the expiration of the time in which to file an appeal, the charges shall become a special assessment against the property and shall constitute a lien on the property for the amount of the assessment. Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall become liable to the City of St. Augusta by reason of such violation. The liability shall be paid in not more than twelve (12) equal payments. Interest at the rate of eight (8) percent per annum shall be assessed on the balance beginning on the first day following discovery of the violation.

Section 22 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.

Section 23 Remedies Not Exclusive. The remedies listed in this ordinance are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law and it is within the discretion of the authorized enforcement agency to seek cumulative remedies. The City of St. Augusta may recover all attorney's fees court costs and other expenses associated with enforcement of this ordinance, including sampling and monitoring expenses.

Section 24 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Adopted this 7th day of March, 2017.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA

By: _____
B.J. Kroll, Mayor

Attest:

By _____
William R. McCabe, City Administrator