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Municipality/Organization: CITY OF GARDNER

EPA NPDES Permit Number: MA041109

MaDEP Transmittal Number: W-035868

**Annual Report Number
& Reporting Period:** No. 8: April 10-March 11

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: Robert B. Hankinson Title: City Engineer

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Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Mark P. Hawke

Title: Mayor, City of Gardner

Date: April 29, 2011

Part II. Self-Assessment

The City of Gardner submits the following report of our progress for the reporting period: May 1, 2010 –April 30, 2011

GENERAL:

The City continues to work toward meeting proposed goals commensurate with staff and financial limitations. A Finding of Violation and Order for Compliance was filed against the City on August 14, 2009, subsequently the schedule for compliance was modified; we focus on meeting the recurring deadlines contained within the Order as well as our specified BMPs.

SPECIFIC:

The following list represents the submissions required as part of the order:

By November 1, 2009

- Screening results for four downtown outfalls

By January 1, 2010

- Written criteria for deciding whether outfalls require further investigation.

By May 1, 2010

- Map of outfalls (not manholes or catch basins).

By May 1, 2010, and yearly thereafter

- List if IDDE investigations and results.
- List of illicit discharges removed.

By July 1, 2010

- Summary list of outfalls screened and dates of screening, identifying all outfalls with dry-weather flows.

By November 1, 2010 (and following years until sampling is complete)

- Dry-and wet-weather sampling results from the last year.
- List of outfalls requiring further investigation (due to screening or sampling results) and schedules for the investigations.

Conditions of the modified Administrative Order requiring submittals have been met through May 1, 2011. Specifically, by letter dated October 29, 2009, the City submitted a printed and electronic copy of a plan showing city wide mapping of the stormwater system. Additionally the forms for eight outfalls screened prior to November 1, 2009 were included. These forms showed that of the eight outfalls, four had sustained flow, three had no flow and one was buried beneath trap rock at the edge of the Otter River.

In compliance with the January 1, 2010 deadline, IDDE criteria for additional investigation of outfalls with flow were included. Additionally test results for seven outfalls with “dry weather flow” were submitted on July 1, 2010. Our IDDE this year has concentrated on following up on the outfall testing. We have been working on a suspected illicit connection in the tributary area of outfall R-22-1. The investigation has tracked a potential illicit connection to a catch basin on Cherry Street between Elm and Cedar streets. We will be doing a televised inspection of the drain in May 2011.

The City’s planning board is considering an LID Ordinance with assistance from MAPC; the plan is to develop an ordinance and sponsor an education component.

Part III. Discussion of Minimum Control Measures:

1. Public Education and Outreach

During the reporting period the City has continued existing public education and outreach measures as reported in the last annual report. Through preparation work for our June 25, 2011 rain barrel give away program we have been preparing and publishing outreach materials educating individuals on the benefits of conserving water use and minimizing stormwater runoff.

2. Public Involvement and Participation

The City once again sponsored and volunteers participated in an earth day cleanup day throughout the City; this has become an annual event with support from local public service organizations.

No sponsors have been found for catch basin stenciling. We will continue looking to implement this measure. Mr. Ed Goss of the Engineering office has become active in communicating with the Miller’s River watershed association.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Work continues to implement a sustainable IDDE program. Our outfall mapping has been completed in compliance with EPA’s Administrative Order. We are continuing to verify catch basin piping location and outfall sample testing.

Plans to televise drains during the fall of 2010 did not happen; and is expected to take place in May of 2011.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Construction site runoff is controlled by an existing subdivision control ordinance and EPA site construction regulations are also monitored. Development has essentially stopped within the City over the past year. Plans are under development for an ordinance for non-subdivision construction activities.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

This item has been completed; monitoring is done by Conservation, Building and Engineering Departments.

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping in Municipal Operations

All BMPs in this item have continued throughout the reporting year. The catch basin cleaning program and street sweeping are continuing vigorously.

7. BMPs for Meeting TMDL

Investigation of stream impairment has not taken place over the reporting period. We have been in discussion with MA DEP over the criteria that suggests that Hilchey Pond is impaired due to urban development. This water body experiences little or no runoff from developed land.