

CITY OF GARDNER

SURVEY DEPARTMENT

Room 226, City Hall - Gardner Ma 01440-2688

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City Engineer

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April 20, 2012

Glenda Velez
US EPA - OEP06-1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109

Fred Civian
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit - Annual Report

To whom it may concern,

Attached please find the Annual Report for MS4 NPDES General Permit compliance for the City of Gardner. This report fulfills the requirement of the General Permit MA 041109 for the period of April 2011 through March 2012.

Very truly yours,
City of Gardner

Robert B. Hankinson, P.E.
City Engineer

Municipality/Organization: CITY OF GARDNER

EPA NPDES Permit Number: MA041109

MaDEP Transmittal Number: W-035868

**Annual Report Number
& Reporting Period:** No. 9: April 2011-March 2012

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: Robert B. Hankinson Title: City Engineer

Telephone #: 978-630-4010 Email: rhankinson@gardner-ma.gov

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 20, 2012

Part II. Self-Assessment

The City of Gardner submits the following report of our progress for the reporting period: May 1, 2011 –April 30, 2012

GENERAL:

The City continues to work toward meeting proposed goals commensurate with staff and financial limitations. We have had a productive year with focus on meeting the recurring goals in our BMP schedules as well implementing a rain barrel give away program imbedded with education and training of the general public as well as the recipients specifically. We have sampled outfalls again to establish trends and to measure the effectiveness of our IDDE efforts. Because of high groundwater conditions and the history of so many of our storm drains being piped streams, we have not seen an expected drop in outfall flows with dry weather. We delayed sampling as long as possible, waited for a prolonged period without rain and ultimately sampled in November 9, 2011.

SPECIFIC:

Our rain barrel give away program was used as a method to provide the public with both an opportunity to prevent stormwater runoff while conserving on drinking water but also served as a vehicle to educate the general public on conservation and reuse. Invitations to participate in the giveaway program included education material that was shown on our cable television station, on the City website and on handout applications. As a result not only the participants benefited but the general public was informed of our efforts to improve the environment and conserve.

We have changed our GIS system for in house and general public use to improve its capability and accessibility, our stormwater mapping and data base has been modified and improved to accommodate our need to include sampling data and stream monitoring. As part of this improvement effort we will be renumbering our stormwater outfalls in the upcoming year.

Our IDDE efforts have uncovered a broken sanitary sewer on Pearl Street that impacted a storm drain where an odor of sewage was detected over 700 feet away. The sanitary sewer crossed over a pre-1900 storm drain, some liquid from the sanitary sewer filtered through several feet of soil and entered the storm drain. The sewer has been repaired and the cross contamination eliminated.

The City's planning board continues to consider an LID Ordinance which is being developed with assistance from MRPC; the plan is to develop an ordinance and sponsor an education component.

Part III. Discussion of Minimum Control Measures:

1. Public Education and Outreach

Through preparation work for our June 25, 2011 rain barrel give away program we have been prepared and published outreach materials educating individuals on the benefits of conserving water use and minimizing stormwater runoff.

2. Public Involvement and Participation

The City continues to sponsor and volunteers participated in an earth day cleanup day throughout the City; this is an annual event with support from local public service organizations.

No sponsors have been found for catch basin stenciling. We are looking to implement this measure through a service organization.

Mr. Ed Goss of the Engineering office maintains communicating with the Miller's River watershed association.

3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

We continue our implementation of a sustainable IDDE program. Our outfall mapping has been completed, although we continue to update and improve our data base support of GIS information. We are continuing to verify catch basin piping location and outfall sample testing.

Limited television work in drains has been accomplished but in connection with the search for illicit connections rather than system wide maintenance.

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.

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. It has been estimated that 2200 catch basins are cleaned each year with about 100 miles of roadway swept. Because we use a sand salt mixture for winter storm treatment, this program is pursued vigorously.

7. BMPs for Meeting TMDL

Investigation of stream impairment has not taken place over the reporting period. We have begun discussions with the Millers River Watershed Council to explore possible opportunities where they may be able to assist us in this endeavor. Stream impairment will be given highest priority during the coming year.