

Attention: David Gray

Re: Worcester draft storm water permit (MS4) (NPDES Permit Number MAS010002)

On behalf of the Leesville Pond Watershed and Neighborhood Association, we would like to submit the following comments in regards to the Worcester draft storm water permit.

The City of Worcester's Storm Water Management Program should include the Riverways Adopt-a-Stream Program. Volunteers are a great resource and should be utilized for shoreline surveys. These surveys begin with investigations. Priorities are identified and an Action Plan is created. Residents and neighbors are the best stewards of a watershed area.

Education is the least costly BMP for many of our impaired waterways. Storm drain stenciling should be expanded to include all catch basins. In addition to the stenciling of storm drains, brochures should be distributed to residents emphasizing the importance of not dumping anything in the storm drains.

Perhaps part of the wastewater management plan should include a ban on garbage disposals in all new construction and to prohibit residents from replacing broken garbage disposals. Reducing the amount of food and grease going down kitchen sinks should help reduce the negative impact on our wastewater treatment plant. If this goal doesn't seem feasible, a consumer awareness program should be instituted on getting residents to think about what they throw down their drains. This type of program may help to lessen the amount of grease that is poured down the drain. Also, residents should be encouraged to use compost bins.

Everyone in Massachusetts benefits if our waterways are maintained and kept in good condition.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments.

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