



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

FACT SHEET

Mayor Stimpson Launches Storm Water Initiative

July 8, 2014

"Our nation's waterways are polluted every day by contaminated storm water runoff. In Mobile, it is vital that we take the necessary measures to ensure our waterways are protected for future generations. My administration is steadfast and determined to make Mobile safer, cleaner and a model American city. Together, we can all do our part to make sure there's only rain in the drain!"

-Mayor Sandy Stimpson

Storm Water /noun/: an abnormal amount of surface water due to a heavy rain

Facts:

1. Mobile is the rainiest city in America with an average of 67 inches a year.ⁱ
2. The Mobile Bay watershed is a vast network of over 250 separate waterways, including rivers, bays, creeks, bayous, lakes, cutoffs, branches, and sloughs and encompasses 44,582 sq. mi.ⁱⁱ

How does Mobile handle Storm Water?

In order to deal with the abundance of storm water, the City of Mobile owns and maintains a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). It is a "separate storm sewer system" that includes ditches, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, and similar means of collecting or conveying storm water runoff that does not connect with a wastewater collection system or treatment plant.

Why is a Storm Water Management Program important?

- ✓ We have a social responsibility to protect our waterways for generations to come and keep them as clean as possible.
- ✓ The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requires the City to pass an ordinance to address specific storm water program elements and to meet State permit requirements.
- ✓ All great cities must constantly evaluate their ability to handle storm water and build capacity across the functions of the city to effectively manage storm water.
- ✓ The Storm Water Management Program dovetails with the City's Litter and Blight enforcement efforts to clean up Mobile.

Mayoral Action:

The City of Mobile will manage our storm water program in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable way as mandated by ADEM and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We will:

- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to mitigate water contamination. Such practices include using techniques, measures and structural controls to manage the quantity and improve the quality of storm water runoff.
- City employees will inspect construction sites for BMPs, contractors will have to use BMPs, and property owners will have to maintain BMPs.
- The City will be cleaning catch basins, sweeping streets, monitoring construction sites, prosecuting illicit discharges, monitoring high risk facilities, and using BMPs at City owned properties.
- City employees are being cross-trained so all inspectors can look for BMPs at construction sites and, generally, spot violations.
- We're focused on regulatory compliance and are taking the necessary steps to ensure it.

[Click HERE for EPA's National Menu of Storm Water Best Management Practices](#)

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ⁱ www.climate.com/assets/LandingPageDocs/Top-10-Rainiest-Cities-Summary.pdf
ⁱⁱ www.mobilebaykeeper.org