

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
2016/2017 Report**

Permit Number 07-09-0-04

August 2017

**Prepared by:
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Introduction

The following is the Stormwater Annual Report for the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) prepared in accordance with Part III of the Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) Permit Number 07-09-0-04. This report summarizes stormwater compliance activities within the boundaries of the University of Northern Iowa as identified in the permit.

1.0 Status of Implementing the Components of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention and Management Program.

The bullet points in 4.0 identify the required tasks for fiscal year 2016 that were completed as stated in Part II of the MS4 permit for the University of Northern Iowa. The tasks are based on six Best Management Practices (BMP's) listed in the MS4 permit. All required tasks for fiscal year 2017 were completed.

2.0 Status of compliance with any compliance schedule established by this Permit of any modifications to this permit.

The University of Northern Iowa fulfilled all schedule requirements as stated in Part II of the MS4 permit for the period of 8/1/16 to 07/31/17. No modifications of the permit were made within the reporting period.

3.0 A summary of all revisions to the approved management program.

No modifications of the permit were made within the reporting period.

4.0 A summary of the data, which is generated within the reporting period, includes narrative descriptions of storm water quality improvements or degradation.

- A storm water drain-stenciling program involves checking each of the storm water intakes to ensure the medallion remains in place and the stenciling information continues to be readable. The medallions used by the university are the same as those purchased by the City of Cedar Falls so contractors will readily recognize the storm water intakes. Currently we are surveying all storm water intakes to include in our new campus GIS system. We have added a field in this system to track the medallions and will continue to inventory and replace where missing. Those areas that were determined where a medallion cannot be affixed have had the message painted on the storm drain.
- The locations of the intakes and outflows had been mapped but we are using the current survey work to take that mapping information out of

CAD and locating it in GIS which will be more readily available to our technicians.

- A Spill Response and Prevention Plan was updated by Brown Engineering Company in April 2016.
- Wetland plants installed during 2009 at the Wetland Demonstration Park located north of the UNI Dome parking lot continue to be monitored and collaboration continues with the City of Cedar Falls regarding that project. A joint prescribed burn was performed in the fall of 2016 with the City to refresh the wetland plants and control the invasive tree species. The City also had its forestry crew manually prune out some of the more aggressive clumps of trees.
- There were a number of high wind events on campus this past year, resulting in the loss of a number of mature trees. Additional trees and shrubs were added to campus as part of the university's landscaping plans and to mitigate the loss of the above mentioned trees.
- UNI achieved Gold rating from the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) which has a section that covers storma
- Signage providing information about naturalized areas of campus has been installed.

Future Environmental Sustainability Projects Planned

The university's landscape architect is developing a multi-year plan for future storm water quality improvement projects. Future projects planned for fiscal year 2016-2017 include: 1) southwest campus storm water project with nutrient reduction wetland, 2) paver replacement on central campus, 3) replacement and refreshing plantings in central campus bio-swales and 4) updating and refreshing planting in the bio-swales in the Hagemann Hall and Noehren Hall parking lots.

5.0 An estimate of the previous fiscal year's expenditures for implementation of the management program and the budget for the current fiscal year.

The storm water management budget for fiscal year 2016 was funded by the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations, the Physical Plant Department, the Environmental Health and Safety Office, applicable grants and the University's general education fund. Maintenance costs expended for maintaining storm water projects and initiatives included \$118,000 for labor and \$25,000 for contracted services. Environmental Health & Safety staff continue to expand the information on the storm water web site to provide educational information to the campus and surrounding communities.

Grounds staff continues to be involved in post-event clean up of the turf and parking lots. The campus' Sustainability Director initiated student activities for recycling during outdoor events to reduce the amount of clean-up post event. The Student Garden has been a success and was expanded again this reporting year.

6.0 A summary describing the number and nature of inspections, enforcement actions and public education programs conducted during the reporting period.

Inspections were conducted by Owner Construction Representatives and/or Physical Plant staff on all University of Northern Iowa's construction sites requiring an NPDES General Permit No. 2 to verify that contractors were following specified BMPs that had been approved in each construction site's pollution prevention plan. Areas of focus during inspections include proper placement and maintenance of silt collection fences, installation of gravel areas to collect soil from vehicle tires and proper sweeping of streets on which truck traffic traveled after leaving construction sites.

UNI has two current projects with active NPDES General No.2 permits. The Power Plant Storage Facility Site Restoration project (Permit No. IA-28308-28120 – 1 year) has received 19 weekly inspections since site work began on 04/11/2016. The Southwest Campus Storm Water Management project (Permit No. IA-28712-28440 – 3 year) has received 11 weekly inspections since site work began on 06/01/2016.

The Storm Water Committee continues to meet and UNI student members are active participants. Information updates are periodically completed to remind members of the University Community about the importance of storm water management; updates are placed on the Environmental Health and Safety web site under the Storm Water Program heading.

The University's Reuse, Recycle Technology Transfer Center (RRTTC) led the 2017 UNI Earth Week Celebration, a week long, campus-wide event that provides various opportunities for students, faculty, staff and the general public to receive education on relevant topics, participate in local clubs and recreation and volunteer in service projects to clean up both main branches of the Dry Run creek that run through campus. The goal of the Earth Week celebration is to improve the local environment and the week culminated with an Earth Day Fair with a number of booths providing information to those who attended the events. The RRTTC develops and implements several environmental education outreach programs to serve various focus groups at the university and in the community.

The University's Tall Grass Prairie Center hosted a Status and Trends in Iowa water Quality: Our Challenges and Opportunities seminar on April 6, 2017 at their center in Cedar Falls that was open to the public at no cost. The featured speaker was Dr. Mary Skopec, Executive Director of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory; Regents resource center at West Lake Okoboji.

UNI has a variety of educational resources relating to water quality, sustainability and the environment, including various educational and research centers on or around campus. These include, Tallgrass Prairie Center; Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center; Center for Energy and Environmental Education and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

UNI has an Office of Sustainability and a Sustainability Action Committee who as a part of their charter address water quality issues on campus, in Blackhawk County and across Iowa.

There is a UNI professor that has been partnering with the Dry Run Creek Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District in her class to have students design and create rain gardens in the Cedar Falls community.

This year we toured Hawkeye Community College representatives on campus on our established BMPs and then jointly applied for WQI grant dollars to install additional BMPs on both campuses.

Sustainable Landscaping: The University strives to put into practice the best use of our resources and time in creating a beautiful, clean, healthy and sustainable campus. UNI has established several areas of prairie plantings to avoid mowing expenses, including labor, equipment, fertilizer and pesticides. UNI is a 'Silver' member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Our practices reflect the latest thinking and technology in our use of pesticides in the environment. UNI recycles leaves and branches accumulated from our external environment from our maintenance practices. These materials are composted and the finished compost is applied in landscape maintenance activities.

The Physical Plant's Grounds unit is involved with enhancing water quality in the Dry Run Creek watershed in which UNI is located. The university has developed several bio-cells, bio-swales, pervious paving installations, green roofs and streambank restoration projects that reduce the environmental impact from storm water run-off from impermeable pavements and roofs and enhance the visual quality of the campus landscape.

Through the Office of the Provost, the university established a Certificate in Sustainability in collaboration with the Faculty Leadership in Sustainability Education Program that includes classes that focus on storm water.

7.0 Summary

This report summarizes required storm water compliance activities completed by the University of Northern Iowa for reporting year 2017. The 2007 reporting year was the first year of compliance activity associated with MS4 Permit number 07-09-0-04 issued to the University of Northern Iowa by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

All permit activities for the reporting year 2017 permit period were completed on or before specified timelines. The University of Northern Iowa will continue to evaluate opportunities to improve storm water quality.

Individuals with questions, comments or concerns about storm water quality issues at the University of Northern Iowa should contact Brian Hadley, Assistant Director of Campus Services, 1801 west 31st Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0003, phone (319)273-7653 or email to brian.hadley@uni.edu.