

COUNTY OF ULSTER

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Summary of 2026 Stormwater Annual Report

(Reporting Year: January 3rd, 2025 – January 2, 2026)

Under the federal Stormwater Phase II regulations, Ulster County is regulated as a traditional, non-land use control Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). During Year 2 of the current permit cycle, the County focused on strengthening compliance documentation, improving stormwater infrastructure mapping and inspections, enhancing training programs, and advancing intermunicipal collaboration.

Departments involved in MS4 implementation include the Department of the Environment, Department of Public Works, Planning, and Information Services. Regional partners contributed to education, training, and outreach efforts.

The County's MS4 Annual Report is prepared to comply with MS4 regulations and is submitted to the NYS DEC. The full annual report is available for review on the Ulster County Department of Environment Stormwater Management Program (MS4) page: [Stormwater Management Program \(MS4\) - Ulster County](#) Any comments may be submitted via email to: Mkuz@ulstercountyny.gov or in writing to the **UC Department of the Environment, PO Box 1800, Kingston NY 12402.**

The Ulster County Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP) was revised in 2025 and is available for review at:

<https://www.ulstercountyny.gov/Departments/Environment/Stormwater/Stormwater-Management-Plan>

The MS4 program mandates are divided into six minimum control measures (MCM): public education and outreach, public involvement/participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction site runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. The County's activities in each of these areas are detailed below.

MCM 1: Public Education and Outreach

During this reporting period, the County expanded both staff training and public education efforts. Soil, Sediment, and Erosion Control Training was conducted to improve construction site runoff control awareness and compliance among staff and municipal partners. The County completed development of an updated Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) training module in collaboration with Rockland County to strengthen regional consistency in identifying, documenting, and responding to potential illicit discharges. MS4 permit updates and compliance requirements were presented at Environmental Management Council (EMC) meetings to increase awareness among municipal and community stakeholders.

Public outreach efforts included hosting a rain garden and green infrastructure educational table at the Kingston YMCA Farm Project, where residents were educated on stormwater best management practices (BMPs), rain garden function and installation, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices. Stormwater educational brochures were distributed to local restaurants in coordination with County partners, and stormwater literature continued to be made available at County facilities and public events. Educational messaging focused on reducing pollutant runoff, protecting receiving waterbodies, and encouraging implementation of small-scale green infrastructure practices.

MCM 2: Public Involvement/Participation

As a traditional non-land use MS4 under the regulations, the County is not required to provide participation opportunities to the public. However, County agencies continued to involve stakeholders and strengthen intermunicipal coordination during this reporting period. Staff attended and presented at EMC meetings regarding MS4 compliance and continued coordination with watershed partners and regional entities. Outreach was initiated to municipal stormwater representatives to strengthen communication among regulated communities, including development of updated contact lists and planning for a stormwater-focused working group. These efforts promote transparency and regional consistency in stormwater management practices.

MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Year 2 included substantial inspection, mapping, and program development progress. Approximately 50 stormwater outfalls were inspected during the reporting period. Inspections included all municipal facility outfalls located within the MS4-designated urbanized area, as well as additional road and system outfalls as part of the County's five-year inspection cycle. No illicit discharge complaints were received during this reporting period, and no confirmed illicit discharges were identified during inspections.

A comprehensive revision of the County's written IDDE Program was completed to align with updated MS4 permit language. The revised program clarifies procedures for detection, reporting, documentation, investigation, and resolution of potential illicit discharges. The updated IDDE training module was finalized to support consistent implementation of program procedures.

The Municipal Facility Inventory List was updated to improve documentation and categorization of facilities located within the MS4 urbanized area. Differentiation and prioritization of facilities

based on stormwater risk characteristics was initiated, including evaluation of higher-risk features such as fueling areas and material storage. GIS-based tracking of stormwater infrastructure was enhanced by refining outfall data to include receiving waterbody name, waterbody classification, and WI/PWL segment identification. These actions strengthen long-term compliance and improve the County's ability to proactively identify and address potential illicit discharges.

MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control

The County Emergency Communications Center in New Paltz is currently under construction and has the necessary DEC permit coverage and SWPPP. Site inspections are contracted out and monitored by the construction management firm hired to oversee the project.

MCM 5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management Practices

Post-construction stormwater management practices located at County facilities were inventoried and inspected during this reporting period. Structural practices including retention basins, detention ponds, and rain gardens continue to be tracked and maintained as needed. GIS tools were utilized to improve mapping accuracy and long-term asset tracking of post-construction stormwater management practices.

MCM 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

The County continued implementation of the Non-Toxic Pest Management (NPM) Policy. All municipal facilities located within the MS4 urbanized area were inspected to assess drainage conditions and pollution prevention practices. The municipal facility inventory was updated and refined to support improved documentation and facility prioritization. Good housekeeping practices were reinforced during staff training sessions.

The Department of Public Works continued compliance with salt storage, sweeping, and drainage maintenance protocols. Educational materials were distributed by the Department of Health to restaurants and community members emphasizing pollution prevention practices and reduction of pollutant discharge to the MS4 system.