Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

The City of St. Louis Park is permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to discharge stormwater from our City into Minnesota's streams, lakes or wetlands as a part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.

One of the requirements of the MS4 Permit is the DETECTION and ELIMINATION of ILLICIT DISCHARGES, or non stormwater pollutants entering our storm sewer system. Minnesota’s public waters are highly valued resources, sources of drinking water, and provide recreational opportunities for all of us, such as swimming, boating and fishing, which all can be negatively impacted if pollutants in stormwater runoff.

An illicit discharge is any discharge into our storm sewer system that is not comprised entirely of stormwater or is harmful to the health and welfare of our citizens, environment, our surface waters, or storm sewer system.

Illicit discharges could be an intermittent discharge, which only occurring a few minutes per day or a few days per year, a continuous discharge, occurring routinely, or transitory discharge, which is only a one time occurrence.

What occurrences are not considered illicit discharges?
- Emergency or firefighting activities
- Hydrant flushing
- Residential car washing
- Draining swimming pools that are de-chlorinated

What to do if you Suspect or Witness an Illicit Discharge?
If you notice storm sewer discharges with unusual odors, floatables, oil film, or coloring the best way to notify the City is by Submitting a request, through Private Property / Business Issue, using the “My St. Louis Park APP”. By using the App, you’ll immediately provide the following information to the proper City staff:

- Area of impact
- Photo documentation of discharge
- Description of discharge

You can also Contact the Engineering Department to report the problem, or call 911 if you suspect the issue needs immediate attention. City staff can then evaluate the situation and determine if harmful pollutants are present and define the proper course of action. The City has developed an Illicit Discharge Detection and Response Plan to manage illicit discharges, which is also incorporated into routine inspection and maintenance activities.

If you have further questions regarding the City of St. Louis Park’s Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Plan, feel free to contact your supervisor or Erick Francis, Water Resources Manager, at efrancis@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2690.