

STORMWATER

The Town of West Seneca is designated as an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) community by New York State. Commonly referred to as storm pipes, MS4s carry all runoff to receiving waterways. These waterways receive everything, including illicit discharges. An illicit discharge is any substance other than rainwater that enters the storm sewer system, such as motor oil, sewage, chemicals, or even seemingly harmless substances like soapy water from car washing. Pollutants that enter storm drains can end up in our rivers, lakes and streams, potentially harming aquatic life and making water unsafe for recreation. New York State requires that MS4 communities take action on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE).

WEST SENECA'S IDDE PROGRAM

Taking Action

To address this challenge, our municipality's IDDE program focuses on several key areas:

1. **Public education:** We are working to raise awareness about illicit discharges and their impacts.
2. **Monitoring and Inspection:** Regular inspections of storm sewer outfalls helps us detect any unusual flows or signs of contamination.
3. **Testing and Analysis:** When we find dry weather flows (water in storm sewers when it hasn't rained), we test for various pollutants.
4. **Source Tracking:** If contamination is detected, we use specialized techniques to trace it back to its source.
5. **Elimination:** Once identified, we work with property owners or businesses to eliminate the source of pollution.
6. **Documentation:** We keep detailed records of our activities to track progress and identify trends.



How You Can Help

Your eyes and ears are valuable assets in protecting our water! Here is how you can contribute:

1. **Report Suspicious Discharges:** If you notice anything unusual entering storm drains or ditches, like colored liquids, strong odors, or excessive suds, please report it to the West Seneca Engineering Department at 558-3220.
2. **Proper Disposal:** Never pour chemicals, paint, or other pollutants down storm drains. Use appropriate disposal methods for household hazardous waste.
3. **Car Care:** Wash your car on grass or at a commercial car wash to prevent soapy water from entering storm drains.
4. **Pet Waste:** Always pick up after your pets. Pet waste can contaminate waterways with harmful bacteria.
5. **Spread the Word:** Share what you have learned about illicit discharges with friends and neighbors.

By working together, we can keep our waterways clean and healthy for everyone to enjoy. Remember-only rain down the drain! Your actions make a difference in preserving our local water resources for future generations.