

## Why is Stormwater Important?

The Town of Thurmont is subject to a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) General Permit for Municipal Stormwater Discharge. This permit must be renewed every five years and reports on the progress of the permit must be submitted every October 31<sup>st</sup>. Those reports document the work done to meet permit requirements for the preceding period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

You probably have been to one of our yearly Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Training days and other MS4 events. Those are a part of what is required by the MDE. This brochure will act as a brief guide for your part of the Town MS4 program.

Town Staff like yourself are involved in all parts of the MS4 program, but the basic components that you will spend the most time on will fall into the following categories:

- Public Education/Public Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Prevention/Detection
- Good Housekeeping of Municipal Properties and Operations

This brochure will go over these tasks, but for more information please feel free to ask the Town Manager or ARRO Staff.

## Town of Thurmont Stormwater Resources

A large part of the MS4 program is keeping the Town residents engaged and involved. If a resident asks about more information regarding stormwater events, public meetings, and other public participation opportunities, please direct them to the Town website at the bottom of this page.

The MS4 Information subpage also contains an educational survey and an illicit discharge reporting form.

**Thurmont Town Office**  
**615 East Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 17**  
**Thurmont, MD 21788**

—  
**(301) 271-7313**  
—

**[www.thurmont.com](http://www.thurmont.com)**



## Why is Stormwater Important?

For Town Staff



—GATEWAY TO THE MOUNTAINS—  
**THURMONT**  
*Maryland*

**ARRO**

## How to Keep the Public Informed and Involved

Two of the focuses of the Town's MS4 permit are public education and public involvement. You are often the face of the Town to the public and can help to keep them up to date and educated on the progress that Thurmont makes. Please see the below information on some of the priority points the public should be aware of.

### **Public Meetings**

In order to communicate the Town's progress toward compliance with its stormwater (MS4) permit, stormwater is often discussed at public meetings. It is also where important items such as the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Plan and the annual MS4 reports are discussed. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the MS4 progress and make their thoughts known on their priorities.

### **Public Involvement Events**

At least once a year, Thurmont advertises a public involvement event to get the people of the Town to work alongside the municipality to help our waterways. It could be a trash pickup, inlet stenciling, or other similar event. It is important to get the word of these events out to the public so that as many people as possible are involved. As much of this process as possible should be recorded, including pictures and names of those involved, to include in annual reports.

## Good Housekeeping

One of the major tasks of the Town's MS4 Permit is to make sure that Town staff and operations do not contribute to the problem.

EVERYONE who works for the Town or is contracted by the Town that performs a task that could pose a possible impact on local waterways must receive training on how to perform their tasks without causing negative impacts.

For your reference, please see the below example tasks that could result in pollutant runoff:

- Landscaping/Lawn and Grounds Care
- Vehicle Operations and Maintenance
- Leaf and Debris Pickup
- Snow Removal/De-icing

You most likely have already received MS4 training on these tasks, as Town standard operating procedures regarding the use/handling/storage of materials and operation/management of facilities have been created with this in mind.

If you are handling materials or performing tasks and feel that there may be a chance of pollutant runoff, feel free to reach out. Ask your Town Manager or ARRO Consulting for help and advice to keep our waterways clean and our Town permit compliant.

## What is Illicit Discharge?

40 CFR 122.26(b)(2) defines an illicit discharge as any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water, except allowable discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit, including those resulting from firefighting activities.

The rule of thumb is, only stormwater should go into stormwater drains!

The Town of Thurmont needs the public to help to find and eliminate illicit discharge. Please direct everyone in the Town to report illicit discharge through one of the following options. Call the Town Office during normal business hours or fill out a report on the Town website.

Once a report of illicit discharge is made, it needs to be investigated immediately. If the investigation confirms the presence of an illicit discharge, please follow the below directives:

- If it is a hazardous material spill, please call the emergency number **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Record everything, both in writing and take pictures. This includes remediating actions taken.
- Take as many precautions as possible to stop the discharge from reaching the waterways. Then clean the site to remove the discharge.
- Contact ARRO Consulting to see if further action is required.