

**CITY OF OXFORD**

**PHASE II 2017 ANNUAL STORMWATER REPORT**

**FOR**

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Submitted By:**

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**CERTIFICATION**

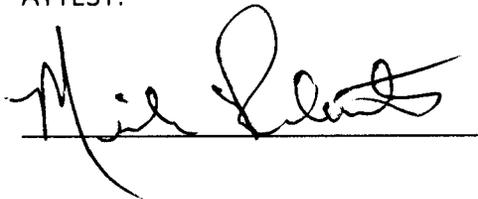
**CITY OF OXFORD, ALABAMA**

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine imprisonment for knowing violations.

Mike Roberts, Building/Zoning Official

City of Oxford, Alabama

ATTEST:

  
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Alton Craft, Mayor

City of Oxford, Alabama

ATTEST:

  
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## **Introduction**

The City of Oxford is referred to as an urbanized area. The urbanized area was designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as a phase II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). The City of Oxford received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II General Permit for stormwater discharge from ADEM (Permit ALR040004) Calhoun County (015). The permit covers Calhoun County, however, the City of Oxford was required to issue a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) separate from the county. The most recent SWMP for Oxford was prepared in December 2016 and the Annual Report is due by May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Annual Report describes the programs and progress made during the year to address stormwater in the City.

### **What is the MS4 Program?**

Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our waterways. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage system until it eventually discharges into streams, lakes, and rivers untreated. An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is comprised of drainage systems, including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm pipes, owned by a state, county, city, township, or other public entity. The NPDES Stormwater Phase II regulation require permit coverage for stormwater discharges from MS4s, mainly those located in urbanized areas.

MS4 Programs are intended to improve our nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by runoff and transported into the stormwater system during rainfall events. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities hold and maintain a stormwater management program that (1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible; (2) protects water quality; and (3) satisfies the water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

The MS4 program has six elements termed "minimum control measures" (MCM) that when implemented should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The six minimum control measures are (1) Public Education and Outreach, (2) Public Participation/Involvement, (3) Illicit Discharge and Elimination, (4) Construction Site Runoff Control, (5) Post Construction Runoff Control, and (6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.

The 2017 Annual Report will describe the action, results, and future plans for each MCM.

## MCM 1 – PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### Permit Requirements:

The Public Education and Outreach program requires the City to implement and evaluate a program that distributes educational material to the community or conducts equivalent outreach activities about the impact of polluted discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the maximum extent possible.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### Current Programs (BMP):

1. Informational stormwater literature is printed on the back of the water bill and mailed to approximately 10,000 residents and businesses. The literature is changed at least every 6 months to cover different topics of stormwater education.
2. One thousand four hundred forty-seven (1447) Stormwater commercials on the local TV24 channel were run throughout the year.
3. The City's web page "Environmental Outreach" includes the Stormwater Plan, the Annual Reports, and other stormwater related literature. The web page also includes an email link through the Action Center for public inquiries and complaints related to stormwater and other environmental issues. The web page is updated with more information for residents.
4. The City helps sponsor environmental programs at the elementary schools, which introduces students to the concept of stormwater, pollution prevention and other valuable environmental concepts.
5. The City and the Oxford Water Board have made "Only Rain in the Drain" bracelets that are handed out at the Water Board office, City Hall, and at the educational events at the schools.
6. The City of Oxford continues with its recycling dumpsters placed throughout the City and encourages citizens to clean up yards by providing not only trash pickup service but also grass clippings, leaves, limbs and rubbish pickup. The City also provides information via their website and their City information line regarding what to do with non-pick up items.
7. The City attends stormwater workshops, which detail public education and outreach topics.
8. Instead of painting "Only Rain in the Drain" slogan on the gutter inlets, Oxford is partnering with the Choccolocco Watershed Alliance to place placards on the inlets. Oxford is currently awaiting receipt of the placards to install.

### Measurable Goals:

Oxford's SWMP Best Management Practices (BMP) was to continue public service notices which includes a notice on the monthly water bills and regular TV commercials, to increase information on Oxford's web page "Environmental Outreach" where all residents have access, to attend workshops for better

management of the Stormwater Plan, to educate students concerning stormwater, and to continue to introduce the slogan "Only Rain in the Drain" to the public.

***All of these measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.***

**Future Programs:**

Oxford will continue with the programs already in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Educational information will continue to be distributed on the water and sewer bills. This advertisement will change approximately 6 months.
2. Continue TV commercials promoting stormwater issues and education.
3. Add stormwater information and videos on the City of Oxford's facebook page and other social media outlets.
4. The City will look into placing advertisements in other city publications.
5. The City will continue to maintain and update its website environmental outreach page and maintain updated links to its SWMP, Annual Report, stormwater related topics, and the email link through the Action Center for public inquiries and complaints related to stormwater and other environmental issues.
6. The City of Oxford will attend at least one stormwater meeting each year and will sponsor one workshop each permit cycle.
7. The City will continue to sponsor clean water presentations at one the six Oxford city schools.
8. The City has partnered with Calhoun County to place "Only Rain in the Drain" stickers on the curbs at every storm drain.
9. The City will continue to distribute "Only Rain in the Drain" bracelets and/or educational materials at various locations and events.
10. The City will continue to encourage the use of the recycling dumpsters and litter pickup. The City will assess the need for any additional dumpster locations.
11. The City will be installing "Only Rain in the Drain" sticker/placards once made available as part of the Choccolocco Creek Watershed initiative.

## MCM 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT

### Permit Requirements:

The Public Participation/Involvement requires the City to implement and evaluate a program centered on the SWMP and the Annual Report. The development of this program will be documented throughout the process. The ongoing activities for public involvement may include advisory councils, watershed associations, committees, stewardship, programs, and other environmental related activities. The SWMP is available on the City of Oxford's website.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### Current Programs (BMP):

1. Oxford designated members of the Environmental Advisory Committee to review, promote and advise the City Council on environmental policies, practices and procedures, including but not limited to, stormwater drainage within the city.
2. The City attends quarterly meetings with the Choccolocco Creek Watershed Alliance and is partnering with them in placing "Only Rain in the Drain" placards on the gutter inlets throughout the county.
3. The City began water presentations for the area schools.
4. Oxford has joined the Calhoun County Stormwater Cooperative and attends quarterly meetings. The City helps sponsor some activities of the Calhoun County Stormwater Cooperative and camps, such as the Calhoun County Extension Center's Camp Cane Creek.
5. The City offers free garbage service and limbs/leaves/rubbish pickup days, as well as providing recycling dumpsters.
6. The City's website includes an Environmental Outreach Page on City's website for public information concerning stormwater topics. The City also has an email link for the public to submit questions or concerns related to stormwater issues.

### Measurable Goals:

Oxford's BMP to involve more public participation includes forming a Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), sponsor activities with local watershed organizations, tidying the city, updating the environmental website, and adopting a city comprehensive plan.

***All measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.***

### Future Programs:

The City of Oxford will continue with the programs in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. The City's Environmental Advisory Committee will review the annual stormwater reports, as well as determine any specific environmental activities or stormwater projects that the will be brought to the City Council for vote.
2. The City will help sponsor or promote an activity of the Calhoun County Stormwater Cooperative.
3. Oxford representatives will continue to attend the Alabama Stormwater Association educational seminars and meetings.
4. The City will continue its garbage pickup, recycling dumpsters, and investigate organizing clean up days.
5. The City will continue to update its environmental outreach website and Action Center.
6. The City of Oxford will join the Clean Water Future program as a Partner.
7. The City will post stormwater related material to their Facebook page and other social media outlets to increase public awareness and public participation.

## MCM 3 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION ELIMINATION (IDDE)

### Permit Requirements:

The City shall include an ongoing program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the City's small MS4, and proper disposal, including spills under the purview of another responding authority, into the MS4 owned or operated by the City to the maximum extent possible.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### Current Programs (BMP):

1. Continuing to work on the stormwater infrastructure inventory map and database.
2. Conduct field assessments to establish priority areas.
3. Educate the Public with information concerning illicit discharges on the back of the monthly water bills and on the City Environmental Outreach website.
4. The City's website includes an Environmental Outreach Page on City's website for public information concerning stormwater topics. The City also has an email link for the public to submit questions or concerns related to stormwater issues, including illicit discharges.
5. Train the City staff on stormwater issues.

### Measurable Goals:

As Oxford continues to educate the public through TV, radio and brochures on the importance of stormwater prevention should increase the public awareness.

***All measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.***

### Future Programs:

The City of Oxford will continue with the programs in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Continue to update the stormwater infrastructure inventory map and database.
2. Enforce the Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Ordinance.
3. Continue field assessments to establish priority areas to track potential illicit discharges.
4. Report and respond to potential illicit discharges and connections, especially with the website option and the City information 311 line.
5. Educating the Public with illicit discharge information on the back of the monthly water bills and on the City Environmental Outreach website.
6. Continue to train the City staff on stormwater issues.

## MCM 4 – CONSTRUCTION SITE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONTROL

### Permit Requirements:

The City must develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce, to the MEP, pollutants in any stormwater runoff to the regulated MS4 from construction activities that result in a total land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre and activities that disturb less than one acre but are larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one acre or more.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### Current Programs (BMP):

1. Require erosion and sediment control plans to be submitted for all new and re-developments. Plans are reviewed and approved by the Building Department and City Council.
2. Erosion and sediment control information is compiled to be distributed to all residential home builders when they apply for or renew their home builder license and to contractors when a building permit is issued.
3. All City Building Inspectors are required to receive annual training.
4. City maintains an inventory of all qualified construction sites and inspects the sites.

### Measurable Goals:

*All measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.*

### Future Programs:

The City of Oxford will continue with the programs in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Review submitted new and re-development erosion and sediment control plans.
2. Erosion and sediment control information will be distributed to all residential home builders and contractors when obtaining permits and licenses within the City.
3. Continue the annual training requirement for building inspectors.
4. Review list of all permits for construction and visit each site to verify stormwater runoff compliance by regular inspection.

## **MCM 5 – POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**

### **Permit Requirements:**

The City must develop and implement project review, approval, and enforcement procedures for new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than one acre, and projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale. Develop procedures for the following: site plan review and approval process; reapprove process when changes to post-construction controls are required; process to demonstrate and document post-construction stormwater measures have been installed properly to include enforceable procedures for noncompliant projects.

Target Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### **Current Programs (BMP):**

1. Oxford enforces the Post Construction Stormwater Runoff Ordinance to address runoff from new development and redevelopment projects.
2. The City performs field inspections to verify adequate construction of the BMPs in accordance with the approved improvement plans.
3. Oxford provides education to the community by distributing stormwater information to the public on the back of the monthly water bills and on the City Environmental Outreach website.
4. Post Construction stormwater information is being compiled to be distributed to contractors when a building permit is issued.
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### **Measurable Goals:**

***All measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.***

### **Future Programs:**

The City of Oxford will continue with the programs in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Oxford will continue to enforce the Post Construction Stormwater Runoff Ordinance.
2. The City will update, as needed, design review guidance for plan reviewers.
3. Post-construction stormwater information will be distributed to all residential home builders and contractors when obtaining permits and licenses within the City.
4. Oxford will begin development of a Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure Ordinance to present to the City Council for review.

## MCM 6 – POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

### Permit Requirements:

The City must document the methodology for the development of a pollution prevention/good housekeeping program for municipal operations. The rationale statement must address the overall prevention/good housekeeping program and the individual BMPs, measurable goals and responsible person(s) for the program. The rationale statement shall include the following information at a minimum:

Target Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

### Current Programs (BMP):

1. Oxford has recycling dumpsters located in specified areas and offers free garbage and limbs/leaves/rubbish pickup to its citizens.
2. The Public Works department maintains the stormwater system throughout the City through routine cleaning and maintenance.
3. The Public Works department maintains the streets and right of ways to minimize litter. Prior to weekly mowing, street crews pick up trash weekly from the right of way.
4. The City Council determines areas of necessary capital stormwater projects.
5. Oxford reviews and updates the inventory of municipal facilities, with name, location, and possible pollutants.
6. The City trains employees on stormwater runoff and pollution prevention.
7. The City has installed pet waste bag and disposal distribution centers at its city parks.
8. The Water and Sewer Department has developed and implemented a FOG (fats, oils and grease) program to help ensure that these pollutants do not back up the sanitary sewer system and get into the stormwater system.

### Measurable Goals:

*All measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.*

### Future Programs:

1. The City will investigate implementing recycling containers at sports fields and during events held at the City parks.
2. Oxford will continue to maintain the stormwater areas.
3. The City will continue to monitor areas for litter and provide garbage and rubbish pickup.
4. Oxford will continue to evaluate areas of needed capital stormwater projects with the direction of the Environmental Advisory Committee.
5. The municipal facilities listed on the inventory will continue to be assessed yearly to identify any deficiencies for remediation.

6. Oxford will continue to train employees on stormwater runoff and pollution prevention.
7. Oxford Water and Sewer Board will continue to complete inspections of the grease traps and sewer system within the City to minimize the possibility of sanitary sewer getting into the stormwater system.

**This report was prepared by:**  
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