



BTSC
Broome-Tioga
Stormwater
Coalition

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PRESS RELEASE

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BROOME-TIOGA STORMWATER COALITION TO REPORT ON STORMWATER ACTIVITIES FOR 2009-2010

Ever wonder where rainwater ends up that flows down into storm drains lining our roads? How is this stormwater runoff connected to the quality of our drinking water? Educating the public on this important issue is one goal of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. On Wednesday May 19th, the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition invites all those interested to come hear and comment on the Coalition's progress on meeting requirements designed to identify, control and reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from rain events. This is important because stormwater runoff from rain events and water from snow melt drains into the Susquehanna River and the aquifer (ground water) that lies underneath, which is the drinking water source for all municipally operated water systems as well as private wells in Broome and Tioga counties. In most of the Greater Binghamton area, storm sewer infrastructure (storm drains connected by underground pipes), separate from sanitary sewer, conveys stormwater from our roads and discharges water eventually into the Susquehanna River untreated. In other words, contaminated rainwater runoff could likely lead to contaminated drinking water in our homes.

The Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition's MS4 Stormwater Annual Report illustrates the progress made on reducing pollution and contamination in stormwater by conducting various activities categorized in 6 major components, or Minimum Control Measures that are required in the program: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, Post-Construction Site Runoff Management, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. Drive down any street in the City of Binghamton, and you will see one example of an activity that counts toward satisfying these requirements –the storm drains have been embossed with steel markers saying No Dumping – goes to river. In the Woodwinds development in Apalachin, a boyscout troop stenciled with paint this same message onto that neighborhood's storm drains. Additionally, the City of Binghamton redesigned Kennedy Park last year. They used permeable pavers (instead of pavement or

concrete) for walkways and the staging area to view and hold events around the monument dedicated to President Kennedy's philosophies. These permeable pavers represent something in the stormwater world called "Low Impact Development" – a best practice that is designed to retain stormwater or rain longer so it can percolate into the ground rather than running off directly into our water bodies. This project involved the installation of 5,700 square feet of Unilock Eco-Prioria pavers. And underneath the permeable pavers is a partial infiltration system that will retain rainwater on-site during most storm events, prevent its discharge into the City's storm sewer system.

Other stormwater-related activities occurring during the past reporting year were stream clean ups and household hazardous waste collections held in both counties, which annually result in the cleanup of tons and tons of waste that otherwise would contaminate our streams and the Susquehanna River. Tioga County also held a separate tire collection, taking in 130 tons of tires.

Next year the coalition will focus on municipal practices and opportunities for sound stormwater management in daily operations.

The Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition's Annual Report can be found on the BTSC's website, www.BroomeTiogaStormwater.com. The Broome-Tioga MS4 Annual Report public meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 19th at 3:00 PM in the Boardroom at the Town of Union 2nd floor of Town Hall, 3111 E. Main Street, Endwell. Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition officials will be taking your comments. For more information on the Broome-Tioga MS4 Stormwater Annual Report or program, contact Dee Golazeski, Town of Union Code Enforcement at 786-2921 or dgolazeski@townofunion.com.

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