

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFF HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: REBECCA RUNKEL, PROJECT ENGINEER
SUBJECT: STORMWATER STANDARDS UPDATE
DATE: JANUARY 18, 2024

In May 2021, the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office (WRC) adopted new stormwater design standards for developments under the WRC's jurisdiction to comply with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements. The new standards were developed with input from municipal representatives, consulting engineers and regional agencies from four counties (Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Wayne). One of the objectives of the WRC's new standards is to provide a consistent, comprehensive framework for managing stormwater which is approved by EGLE and can be adopted by local communities throughout the metro-Detroit region.

Around this time, many communities in the region, including Novi, were issued a new MS4 permit by EGLE that required the adoption of updated stormwater design standards that would address post-construction stormwater runoff controls, including post-development runoff treatment, rate, and volume. Novi, along with many other local municipalities, is choosing to adopt the WRC's new standards related to post-construction stormwater runoff to meet EGLE's MS4 permit requirements and to help meet the WRC's objective of consistent regional site development stormwater practices. The new standards and updated MS4 permit requirements are expected to improve water quality, reduce runoff volumes, and provide greater flood control.

City staff worked with City attorney, Beth Saarela, to draft amendments to the City's Code of Ordinances adopting the WRC's new standards. The draft amendments were reviewed and approved by EGLE in accordance with the City's MS4 permit requirements. The sections of Ordinance that require amendment are as follows:

- Chapter 11, Design and Construction Standards, Article IV, Storm Sewers, Section 11-93, "General Design"
- Chapter 12, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Article III, "Stormwater Detention," Section 12-70, "Determination of need for on-site detention or retention facilities"
- Chapter 12, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Article VI, "Stormwater Management," Section 12-217, "Standards for Stormwater Management and Plan Approval"

The Ordinance amendments primarily consist of an added reference to compliance with Section I of the Oakland County Stormwater Engineering Design Standards Manual during site design for new developments and redevelopments. In addition to the Ordinance amendments, City staff have also revised the City's Engineering Design Manual accordingly. The first reading of the Ordinance amendments is set for consideration at the City Council meeting on Monday, January 22, 2024.