

# DRAINING YOUR SWIMMING POOL?

3 easy steps to drain your residential pool  
while protecting the environment

## 1. Dechlorinate

- **Sunlight**

- Stop adding chlorine and expose to sunlight for two weeks
- Continue to run pump during this time

OR

- **Chemicals**

- Purchase dechlorination agent that meets EPA standards
- Vitamin C-based dechlorination tablets are also acceptable and safer to handle
- Follow directions provided by manufacturer



## 2. Infiltrate

- Find a grassy area, garden, or other natural area on your property
- Slowly pump pool water into designated area and allow to soak into ground
- **Salt Water Pools**
  - NEVER drain a salt water pool into a storm sewer
  - Drain in stages on your property where water can absorb
  - Too much salt in one spot may kill vegetation and no longer sustain growth
- **Failure to pump slowly may flood the drainage area**

## 3. Storm Grate

- If you don't have a natural area available, you may slowly pump dechlorinated pool water to storm drain (salt water pool discharges prohibited!)
- **Failure to remove chlorine or sediment from pool water before draining may result in fines**



# PLEASE

## DO NOT BLOW YOUR GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO THE STREET

When mowing your yard, make certain that you do not blow your grass clippings into the street. When mowing make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the clippings into the lawn NOT the street. If there are lawn clippings left on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or blower to blow them back onto the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains. Grass clippings can be brought to the DPW dept. at 276 W. Division.

Grass clippings that are left in the street eventually enter the street storm drain. The clippings then cause blockages in the storm drains that cause storm water backups and flooding. Grass clippings in the storm drains contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways.

Grass clippings are considered a source of water pollution.

## IT IS A VIOLATION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCE TO LEAVE YOUR GRASS CLIPPINGS IN THE STREET.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN AND POLLUTION FREE.



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

December 9, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Dennis Brinks, Department of Public Works  
Village of Sparta  
276 W. Division Street  
Sparta, Michigan 49345

Dear Mr. Brinks:

SUBJECT: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Audit  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
Certificate of Coverage (COC) No. MIG610136  
Designated Name: Sparta MS4-Kent

Staff of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), Grand Rapids District Office (GRDO) conducted a desk audit and inspection of the Village of Sparta's (Village) MS4 Program on November 9, 2020. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine compliance with Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended; and the NPDES MS4 Watershed Based General Permit No. MIG619000 and the Village's COC No. MIG610136.

This audit included a comprehensive review of the Village's documented implementation of its MS4 Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) and a site inspection of the Village's facilities. As part of the audit, implementation of the following minimum control measures was evaluated: public education program (PEP), illicit discharge elimination program (IDEP), pollution prevention/good housekeeping program. The audit was based on the review of the following information:

- Progress reports dated 2015, 2017, 2019
- Prior on-site inspections/audits (2012, 2015)
- On-site inspection and conversation with permittee
- Additional records provided by permittee, including street sweeping records and inspection logs.

The Village participates in and receives MS4 program support from the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds. The Village distributes PEP materials at Village offices and during public events. Dry-weather screening was most recently performed in 2018. Village properties are inspected regularly and maintained as needed. Employees have received appropriate pollution prevention and good housekeeping training. Required corrections that were identified in previous audits have been addressed.

The Village appears to be meeting the requirements of COC No. MIG610136.

Thank you for your effort to implement the MS4 SWMP. If you have any questions, please contact me at 616-401-9913; StAmourA@Michigan.gov; or at EGLE, WRD, Grand Rapids District Office, 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341.

Sincerely,



Amanda St. Amour  
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst

as/lr

cc: Ms. Cara Decker, Grand Valley Metro Council (via email)