

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is anything that is not stormwater that is poured, released, or discharged into the County's Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4). MS4s include structures like ditches, pipes, detention ponds, street drains, wetlands, and other state waters. The water and materials that enter these structures are released untreated to local streams and rivers.

Types of pollutants in illicit discharges include: yard debris, grass clippings, used motor oil, cleaning chemicals, and many other substances that can cause water pollution.



How can I help protect Madison County's streams?

Adopt-A-Road

Volunteer to adopt at least 1 mile of county road, picking up litter 4 times a year. This will help keep pollutants out of stormwater runoff. The Adopt-A-Road program is open to individuals, families, and community



groups such as schools, churches, and Scouts. For more information, please contact Keep Madison County Beautiful at (706) 795-5151.

Bring One for the Chipper

Dispose of your Christmas tree through the Bring One for the Chipper program, sponsored by the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation. Several Christmas tree drop-off points are available throughout Madison County in January. Trees are recycled into mulch, which is made available to the public. Mulch helps prevent soil erosion and improves the quality of stormwater runoff.



What is an Illicit Connection?

An illicit connection is any above or below ground pipe, drain, or open channel that is intentionally or accidentally connected to the County's MS4. Such a connection must be approved by the County. However, if an approved connection allows an illicit discharge



to enter the County's MS4, this connection is considered illegal. Examples include roof drains, construction

discharge pipes, and washing machine discharges.

If you see or suspect an illicit discharge/connection, please contact the Madison County Board of Commissioners at (706) 207-3547.

Madison County



Stormwater Program



Help protect our streams

Madison Co. Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 147
Danielsville, GA 30633
(706) 207-3547

www.madisoncountyga.us

Who regulates stormwater?

The EPD and EPA regulate the discharge of stormwater in Georgia. This is done through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The Madison County Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) ensures compliance with all the state (EPD) and federal (EPA) requirements for discharging stormwater runoff to waters of the state.

What are state waters?

A “state water” is defined as any body of surface or subsurface water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the state including: rivers, streams, creeks, branches, reservoirs, lakes, ponds, springs, wells, and drainage systems connected to another body of water above or underground.

Why is important to regulate our state waters?

All state waters contribute to drinking supplies for both humans and wildlife. They are also used for recreational activities, including swimming and fishing, along with being very important aquatic habitats for a large range of wildlife. One way that EPD regulates and protects state waters is through natural buffers.



What are natural buffers?

Natural buffers are areas of vegetation, including trees and small brush, that are located adjacent to the banks of state waters. When properly maintained, these buffers help to protect water quality and aquatic habitats.

How do buffers work?

Buffers have many functions that are beneficial to the environment, including:

- Providing shade to keep water temperatures down
- Protecting channel banks from erosion
- Reducing the speed and amount of stormwater runoff
- Helping to filter stormwater runoff
- Providing shelter, food, and habitats for local wildlife
- Aiding in flood protection
- Restoring and helping maintain the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of local water resources

What kinds of buffers exist?

The State of Georgia has a strict 25-foot undisturbed vegetative buffer along the boundary of intermittent and perennial streams and lakes. Additionally, waters that are considered trout waters have a 50-foot buffer. These buffers are measured horizontally from both stream banks where water has wrested the vegetation.



What kinds of state waters exist?

- 1) An **ephemeral stream** is a stream that typically has no well-defined channel and flows only after rainfall events. Ephemeral streams do not require a buffer.



- 2) An **intermittent stream** is a stream that flows in a well-defined channel during wet seasons of the year but may not have year-round flow. Intermittent streams require a buffer.



- 3) A **perennial stream** is a stream that flows in a well-defined channel throughout the year under normal weather.

