

How does your MS4 affect you?

First, what is an MS4?

A municipal separate storm sewer system, or an MS4, is a conveyance or system of conveyances. These conveyance systems are owned by a state, city, town, village or other public entity that collects storm water and discharges the storm water to waters of the United States.

So.....what does that have to do with me?

All waterways are looked at by a state or federal agency, in Alabama's case this agency is the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), to determine the waterway's best use. For example, some are rated for Fish and Wildlife, which means that the waterway is best for fish and water wildlife and may be best for fishing trips. Other waterways are rated best for recreational swimming, which would be most of our old swimmin' holes. A city's MS4 program helps prevent pollutants, like oil, grease, and trash, from entering waterways so that they are still useable for their classified use.

Oh ok! So what can I do to help keep the pollutants out of my waterways? I don't want to swim or fish in trash!

That's great! Contact the City of Smiths Station to see what opportunities they have available. Your city has an MS4 and they are required to involve citizens like you!

My city doesn't have an MS4, what other ways can I help?

Awesome! There are many different organizations that can help or you can start your own group to clean up your roads or local stream beds. One resource would be your local County's Cooperative Extension Office. Ask what opportunities they have coming up that deal with pollution and volunteer to help your community out!

CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. is a diversified professional services firm specializing in environmental remediation, solid waste and environmental consulting as well as civil, utility, transportation and geotechnical engineering that has been contracted to help the City of Smiths Station with the future development of their MS4 program. For more information about CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. please visit their website at www.cdge.com.

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