

PRESSRELEASE

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Georgia DOT is doing its part to prevent stormwater pollution – on Earth Day and every day

ATLANTA – Earth Day is celebrated every year in April. While it is a day for schools, businesses, and governments to focus on protecting our natural resources, the Georgia Department of Transportation is doing its part 365 days a year. Georgia DOT was given a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit in 2012 to prevent excessive discharges, dumping, spills, erosion and pollutants from contaminating nearby waterways in designated Georgia communities. These practices are incorporated into how new projects are designed, constructed and maintained.

Stormwater management and pollution prevention are an integral part of our commitment to protect the environment. Every new project is reviewed for stormwater impacts, and many major roadway projects in urban areas will include measures to treat and slow down runoff to protect downstream areas. And it's not just the runoff from roadways that is being protected. Several of Georgia DOT's facilities have been issued Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs). These SWPPPs help our staff manage day to day operations at those facilities such that stormwater runoff is protected from potential pollutants. We have also inspected and inventoried over 60,000 storm structures under the MS4 Permit. During the inspection process, we have identified and helped to eliminate non-stormwater materials in our storm drain system, including grease and sewage from broken sanitary sewers. This process has also enabled us to prioritize maintenance efforts to keep our drainage system working properly.

Georgia DOT recognizes that it's not just engineers and contractors that are responsible for protecting our environment. We have developed an extensive training program to educate all employees on stormwater pollution prevention. By offering training courses and online tutorials specific to each job type, we have provided employees with the tools they need to help reduce stormwater pollution. You can also learn about ways to keep Georgia's streams, rivers and lakes healthy and clean by visiting our Pollution Prevention website at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Environment/Stormwater>. The website features several new items like the Stormwater Awareness Video, the Stormwater 101 online tutorial and other related educational materials that are all available to the public. You can also report drainage problems, spills, illegal dumping, suspicious substances and any other stormwater complaint along Georgia DOT's facilities via the website. Follow us on social media and join the effort to protect our environment. **#GDOTMS4 #stormwater**

There's more to the Georgia Department of Transportation than roads and bridges – much more. In fact, Georgia DOT is one of the state's largest, most active environmental protection agencies. Each day, Department specialists work to ensure its projects do not harm our drinking water, cultural resources, streams, endangered species, wetlands, historic sites, rivers, air quality, harbors, threatened species, floodplains, special architecture, fish populations, wildlife habitats, noise levels, important archaeological features, disadvantaged communities, native peoples, farmlands, migratory birds and more. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftotrans>).