



# Cascade County Public Works

“WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE”

November 9, 2020

RE: Cascade County MS4 – MCM#1 Key Target Audience  
Landscape Contractors

Dear Landscape Contractor,

As a landscape contractor doing business in the Cascade County area, you have been listed as a target audience for the County’s Public Education & Outreach program to raise awareness about the impacts of storm water discharges on waterbodies due to activities completed by your company.

General Information

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and rivers. When fertilizer and lawn chemicals are applied prior to rainfall events, they have the potential to be carried into nearby waterbodies causing contamination. Excess fertilizer in the water can cause algae to grow, thereby causing reduced oxygen levels in the water harming the aquatic environment. Contaminated runoff can be caused by excessive fertilizer/chemical application, excessive landscape irrigation, and improper fertilizer placement.

Steps to Reduce Watershed Impacts

The following steps can be taken to reduce potential impacts to receiving waterbodies:

- Use lawn chemicals and fertilizers sparingly (per manufacturer’s recommendations)
- Sweep excess fertilizer and lawn clippings left on sidewalks and driveways
- Utilize organic fertilizers where possible
- Properly clean up both wet and dry spills to remove contamination potential
- Properly install irrigation equipment to limit overspray onto hard surfaces and to limit over-watering causing contaminated runoff
- Don’t apply fertilizers and chemicals during or before precipitation events

Additional Watershed Considerations

As a landscape designer you have the ability to work with residents & businesses to provide efficiently-designed irrigation systems and can provide a chemical/fertilizer plan that provides adequate nutrients to their properties while limiting excessive application rates.

If you have any questions or if you would like additional information pertaining to the County’s MS4 permit please feel free to contact me at 406-727-2185 or via email at [kmay@bigskyce.com](mailto:kmay@bigskyce.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin May, P.E. – Big Sky Civil & Environmental, Inc.  
Cascade County MS4 Coordinator

Les Payne, Director

DIVISIONS

<p><u>Building Maintenance</u> Roy Curtis 415 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave No, #101 Great Falls, MT 59401 Phone: 406-454-6773</p>	<p><u>Fleet Maintenance</u> Bob Wilson</p>	<p><u>Road &amp; Bridge</u> Rick Schutz</p>	<p><u>Weed &amp; Mosquito</u> Josh Blystone 279 Vaughn S Frontage Rd Great Falls, MT 59404 Phone: 406-454-6920 Fax: 406-454-6922</p>	<p><u>Communications</u> Tony Rucinsky</p>	<p><u>ExpoPark Maintenance</u> Rick Cole 400 3<sup>rd</sup> ST NW Great Falls, MT 59404 Phone: 406-727-8900</p>
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