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For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2016

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## City's Stormwater Program Reviewed by EPA

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg recently received results from a review of its stormwater program that took place last summer.

In July 2015, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performed a thorough two-day inspection of the city's stormwater management program, focusing on overall compliance with the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit.

The inspection involved field reviews of active construction and post-construction sites, a review of the city's outfall mapping, and site inspections of selected city facilities for signs of pollutants that could impact the storm sewer system. In addition, extensive interviews were conducted prior to the two-day inspections and documentation was reviewed from all stormwater-related activities within the past year.

Ultimately, the EPA did not issue any mitigation actions to the city, nor did they issue a fine associated with the inspection as other permit-holders have received, which can exceed \$100,000.

Permit compliance requires regular coordination and communication between many city departments including Public Works, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Utilities, Public Transportation, Fire, and Police. Approximately 30 staff members from these different departments spent significant time preparing for the inspection and also dedicated time during the inspections to retrieve documentation and answer questions.

"The success of this inspection can be credited towards the city departments and their willingness to adapt to procedural changes on behalf of local water quality," explained Kelley Junco, stormwater permit coordinator. "We will continue to improve our stormwater management program to ensure compliance with the MS4 permit."

The MS4 program requires the city to control pollutants from entering storm sewer systems and local surface waters. Responsibility falls on all city employees, businesses, and citizens to reduce and manage harmful pollutants like waste oil, gasoline, and trash or debris.

**-MORE-**

**PRESS RELEASE: CITY'S STORMWATER PROGRAM REVIEWED BY EPA**  
**PAGE 2**

In Virginia, 117 entities hold MS4 permits and in our area, James Madison University, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the town of Bridgewater also hold MS4 permits.

For more information about the city's MS4 permit, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/MS4-permit-program](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/MS4-permit-program).

*Did you know...the **Public Works Department** collects rain water harvested from their equipment storage building and utilizes the water for street sweeping and storm drain flushing? Let's all be good stewards in our city!*



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