

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As required by its MS4 permit, this Annual Report documents the tasks completed by University of Kentucky (UK) during 2025. These tasks are defined in the Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SWQMP) that was developed at the beginning of the current five-year permit cycle, which encompassed 2018 to 2023. The permit expired on April 30, 2023, but is administratively continued until such time that a new permit is issued by the Kentucky Division of Water.

The SWQMP provides the framework for compliance with the MS4 permit and includes a total of 106 tasks, 225 measurable goals, assigns the responsible parties for oversight, and defines evidence needed to show completion of each task and goal. With the pending renewal of the MS4 permit and development of a new SWQMP, the intent was for progress to continue on the ongoing and unfinished tasks specified in the current SWQMP. Completing these tasks is essential to meet permit requirements and reduce the discharge of pollutants from campus.

A review of tasks being completed by stakeholders shows that ongoing/recurring tasks have become part of standard practices and have continued. Efforts have also been made to expand program opportunities where possible/when feasible, some of which can be seen in the highlights section below. However, with the rapid growth and volume of construction projects currently in progress at UK, focus has shifted away from further progress on some SWQMP tasks and on to construction related tasks such as project reviews and ensuring compliance with erosion prevention and stormwater pollution requirements during construction. This focus on both construction and post-construction BMP's will have a direct and lasting impact on stormwater quality. Efforts are underway to streamline SWQMP tasks to develop efficiencies under current staff and time constraints while continuing to advance the program.

Highlights of progress made in 2025 are summarized in the following:

Education, Outreach, and Participation Efforts

- Two interns were hired via the Sustainability Internship Program to assist with MCM 1&2 program improvements and to conduct outreach, education, and public participation activities. The internships began in August 2025 and will continue until May 2026.
- New Activity Information Sheets were developed as training tools in response to needs identified around campus. New sheets include Concrete Washout, Preventing Common Discharges from Construction Sites, Boring and Drilling Slurry, Construction Entrances, Dewatering, Wet Saw Cutting, Pressure Washing, Mulch Storage, Outdoor Sanitary Sewer Overflows, Parking Structure Cleaning, Indoor Sanitary Overflows, Preventing Common Discharges, and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. These will be available on the Stormwater Website.
- Significant efforts continued towards staff and campus outreach through a variety of avenues including the Facilities Management Newsletter and Training Newsletter, UKNow Articles, Utilities and Energy Management Weekly Wire, and Sustainability's WholeSum blog, all of which include important information on the protection of stormwater.
- Interns continued drain assessments and marking. During the fall semester, 198 drains were assessed and 67 were marked. One outcome of the drain assessments was that the interns reported several Illicit Discharge concerns to be investigated by EQM. Additionally, drain markers were redesigned in 2025 to include a QR code that directs people to the stormwater website.

Construction and Post-Construction Controls

- For the 2025 reporting period, there were a total of 68 illicit discharge or stormwater complaints reported and resolved, many related to construction site stormwater management.

- EQM continued the implementation and improvement of Compliance Go for use in tracking construction and post-construction compliance activities around campus. This system is used for monthly construction site inspections, annual BMP inspections, annual GPP inspections, and annual SPCC inspections.
- EQM and Strand completed 65 Post-Construction BMP inspections.
- Utilities completed maintenance on 21 water quality treatment devices.
- During 2025, stormwater reviews were completed on 17 projects to confirm compliance with UK Design Standards and the MS4 permit. Once under construction, monthly inspections were completed on required projects to verify that sufficient protection measures were in place.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

- EQM hired a new Hazardous Materials Manager. Their responsibilities will include management of all ASTs, USTs, the SPCC program, and all Environmental Assessments. Since SPCC is part of the stormwater program, the new Hazardous Materials Manager will also be added to the Stakeholder Committee.
- In an effort to maintain stormwater program assistance services, EQM issued an MS4 Permit Compliance Assistance Request for Proposals (RFP) in April 2025. The contract resulting from this RFP extends these services through June 30, 2035. Upon completion of the proposal and selection process, Strand Associates was selected to continue providing services through the new contract term.
- Coal boilers, a coal hopper, and a coal pile were removed from the Central Heating Plant. This resulted in reduction of pollutant loading and allowed for the removal of a storm drain BMP. Remaining BMPs at the coal pile are being left in place until the final closeout of the location.

Stormwater-Related Projects

- Stormwater repairs were made to address a problem area along University Drive in the vicinity of Cooling Plant 1 and Hospital Drive. These repairs were performed to alleviate flooding during heavy rain events and consisted of correcting an offset at an inlet and fixing a sagged pipe.
- A variety of sanitary sewer-related infrastructure maintenance and repair tasks were completed including repair to prevent backups and overflows at Alumni Gym, repairs at Pence Hall, and replacement of sanitary sewers at the Shawneetown apartments and 660 S Limestone all of which have a direct impact on the reduction of potential water quality impairments.