

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2770

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING METHODS FOR CONTROLLING THE INTRODUCTION OF POLLUTANTS INTO MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT PROCESS

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT ILLICIT DISCHARGE

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Vestavia Hills through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the storm drainage system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law.

WHEREAS, this ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process.

WHEREAS, this ordinance provides the minimum content for implementing and enforcing a STORM WATER management consistent with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) permit currently issued to the City of Vestavia Hills.

WHEREAS, the objectives of this ordinance are:

1. To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) by STORM WATER discharges by any user
2. To prohibit Illicit Connections and Discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system
3. To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following words and terms shall have the meaning assigned to them in this section.

Authorized enforcement agency - employees or designees of the director of the municipal agency designated to enforce this ordinance.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to STORM WATER, receiving waters, or STORM WATER conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Clean Water Act. - The federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Construction Activity - Activities subject to NPDES Construction Permits. Currently these include construction projects resulting in land disturbance of 1 acre or more. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

Hazardous Materials - Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Illegal Discharge - Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system, except as exempted in Section X of this ordinance.

Illicit Connections. - An illicit connection is defined as either of the following:

1. Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illegal discharge to enter the storm drain system including but not limited to any conveyances which allow any non-storm water discharge including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by the City of Vestavia Hills or,
2. Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drain system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by the City of Vestavia Hills.

Industrial Activity - Activities subject to NPDES Industrial Permits as defined in 40 CFR, Section 122.26 (b)(14).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit - means a permit issued by EPA (or by a State under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

Non-Storm Water Discharge - Any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water.

Person - Any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

Pollutant - Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordinances, and accumulations, so that same may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

Premises Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

Storm Drainage System - Publicly-owned facilities by which storm water is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

Storm Water - Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan - A document which describes the Best Management Practices and activities to be implemented by a person or business to identify sources of pollution or contamination at a site and the actions to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges to STORM WATER, STORM WATER Conveyance Systems, and/or Receiving Waters to the Maximum Extent Practicable.

Wastewater - means any water or other liquid, other than uncontaminated storm water, discharged from a facility.

Section 2
ADMINISTRATION

The City of Vestavia Hills shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Any powers granted or duties imposed upon the City of Vestavia Hills may be enforced by the City Engineer or delegated in writing by an official of the City of Vestavia Hills to persons or entities acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the agency.

Section 3

ILLICIT DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

Section 3.1 Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses any materials, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than storm water.

Section 3.2 Illegal Discharges Exemptions.

The prohibition shall not apply to any non-storm water discharge permitted under an NPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the storm drain system.

The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this ordinance provided that they have been determined not to be substantial contributor of pollutants by the City or Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM):

- a) Water line flushing;
- b) Landscape irrigation or lawn watering (not consisting of treated, or untreated wastewater unless otherwise authorized);
- c) Diverted stream flows;
- d) Uncontaminated ground water infiltration
- e) Uncontaminated pumped groundwater;
- f) Discharges from potable water sources;
- g) Foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems);
- h) Air conditioning condensation or drains;
- i) Irrigation water (not consisting of treated, or untreated wastewater unless otherwise authorized);
- j) Rising ground water;
- k) Springs;
- l) Water from crawl space pumps;
- m) Lawn watering runoff;
- n) Individual residential car washing, to include charitable carwashes;
- o) Residential street wash water;
- p) Discharges or flows from firefighting activities (including fire hydrant flushing);
- q) Flows from natural riparian habitat or wetlands;
- r) Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;
- s) Dye testing is an allowable discharge, but requires a verbal notification to the City of Vestavia Hills prior to the time of the test.

Section 3.3 Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

- a) The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the storm drain system is prohibited.
- b) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
- c) A person is considered to be in violation of this ordinance if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

Section 4

SUSPENSION OF MS4 ACCESS

Section 4.1 Suspension Due to Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations.

The City of Vestavia Hills may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, or to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4 or Waters of the United States. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an emergency, the City of Vestavia Hills may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or Waters of the United States, or to minimize danger to persons.

Section 4.2 Suspension Due to the Detection of Illicit Discharge.

Any person discharging to the MS4 in violation of this ordinance may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The City of Vestavia Hills will notify a violator of the proposed termination of its MS4 access. The violator may petition the City of Vestavia Hills for a reconsideration and hearing.

A person commits an offense if the person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the City of Vestavia Hills.

Section 5
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY DISCHARGES

Any person subject to an industrial, commercial or construction activity NPDES storm water discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the City of Vestavia Hills prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

Section 6

MONITORING OF DISCHARGES

Section 6.1 Applicability.

This section applies to all facilities that have storm water discharges associated with industrial, commercial, and construction activity.

Section 6.2 Access to Facilities.

- a) The City of Vestavia Hills shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities subject to regulation under this ordinance as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this ordinance. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to representatives of the City of Vestavia Hills.
- b) Facility operators shall allow the City of Vestavia Hills ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, examination and copying of records that must be kept under the conditions of an NPDES permit to discharge storm water, and the performance of any additional duties as defined by state and federal law.
- c) The City of Vestavia Hills shall have the right to set up on any permitted facility such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the City of Vestavia Hills to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge.
- d) The City of Vestavia Hills has the right to require the discharger to install monitoring equipment as necessary. The facility's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger at its own expense. All devices used to measure STORM WATER flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.
- e) Any temporary or permanent obstruction to safe and easy access to the facility to be inspected and/or sampled shall be promptly removed by the operator at the written or oral request of the City of Vestavia Hills and shall not be replaced. The costs of clearing such access shall be borne by the operator.
- f) Unreasonable delays in allowing the City of Vestavia Hills access to a permitted facility is a violation of a storm water discharge permit and of this ordinance. A person who is the operator of a facility with a NPDES permit to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity commits an offense if the person denies the City of Vestavia Hills reasonable access to the permitted facility for the purpose of conducting any activity authorized or required by this ordinance.
- g) If the City of Vestavia Hills has been refused access to any part of the premises from which STORM WATER is discharged, and he/she is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this ordinance, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this ordinance or any order issued hereunder, or to protect the overall public health, safety, and welfare of the community, then the City of Vestavia Hills may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 7
**REQUIREMENT TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND REDUCE STORM WATER
POLLUTANTS BY THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

The City of Vestavia Hills will adopt requirements identifying Best Management Practices for any activity, operation, or facility which may cause or contribute to pollution or contamination of storm water, the storm drain system, or waters of the U.S. The owner or operator of a commercial or industrial establishment shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses through the use of these structural and non-structural BMPs. Further, any person responsible for a property or premise, which is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge, may be required to implement, at said person's expense, additional structural and non-structural BMPs to prevent the further discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system. Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid NPDES permit authorizing the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this section. These BMPs shall be part of a STORM WATER pollution prevention plan (SWPP) as necessary for compliance with requirements of the NPDES permit.

Section 8
WATERCOURSE PROTECTION

Every person owning property through which a watercourse passes, or such person's lessee, shall keep and maintain that part of the watercourse within the property free of trash, debris, excessive vegetation, and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate, or significantly retard the flow of water through the watercourse. In addition, the owner or lessee shall maintain existing privately owned structures within or adjacent to a watercourse, so that such structures will not become a hazard to the use, function, or physical integrity of the watercourse.

Section 9

NOTIFICATION OF SPILLS

Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting or may result in illegal discharges or pollutants discharging into storm water, the storm drain system, or water of the U.S. said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials said person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services. In the event of a release of non- hazardous materials, said person shall notify the City of Vestavia Hills in person or by phone or facsimile no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by phone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the City of Vestavia Hills within three business days of the phone notice. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

Section 10

ENFORCEMENT AND ABATEMENT

Whenever the City of Vestavia Hills finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this Ordinance, the City of Vestavia Hills may enforce the ordinance with escalating procedures.

Section 10.1 Notification; Enforcement Remedies.

- a) Warning Notice: A warning notice of violation is the lowest level of formal response to a violation. It is a verbal or written response presented to the violator shortly after a violation has been identified and is intended for minor violations that would not cause significant harm to the environment.
- b) Notification of Violation: Whenever the Official finds that any person is in violation of any provision of this ordinance, or any order issued hereunder, the Official or his agent may serve upon such person written notice of the violation requiring the removal of illicit discharges and immediate cessation improper disposal practices within ten (10) calendar days of the date of such notice. Compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person may require without limitation:
 - 1. The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
 - 2. The abatement or remediation of storm water pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property; and
 - 3. Payment of a fine to cover administrative and remediation costs; and
 - 4. The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs.
- c) Compliance Order: Whenever abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property is not possible within ten (10) days, a compliance order may be issued to the violator. The order shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said order shall further advise that, should the violator fail to remediate or restore within the established deadline, the work will be done by a designated governmental agency or a contractor and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

Section 10.2 Appeal of Violation.

Any person receiving a Notice of Violation or Compliance Order may appeal the determination of the City of Vestavia Hills. The notice of appeal must be received within ten (10) days from the date of the Notice of Violation/Compliance Order. Hearing on the appeal before the appropriate authority or his/her designee shall take place within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the notice of appeal. The decision of the municipal authority or their designee shall be final.

Section 10.3 Enforcement Measures After Appeal.

If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Notice of Violation, or, in the event of an appeal, within thirty (30) days of the decision of the municipal authority upholding the decision of the City of Vestavia Hills, then representatives of the City of Vestavia Hills shall enter upon the subject private property and are authorized to take any and all measures necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the government agency or designated contractor to enter upon the premises for the purposes set forth above.

Section 10.4 Cost of Abatement of the Violation.

Within 30 days after abatement of the violation, the owner of the property will be notified of the cost of abatement, including administrative costs. The property owner may file a written protest objecting to the amount of the assessment within 10 days. If the amount due is not paid within a timely manner as determined by the decision of the municipal authority or by the expiration of the time in which to file an appeal, the charges shall become a special assessment against the property and shall constitute a lien on the property for the amount of the assessment.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall become liable to the city by reason of such violation. The liability shall be paid in not more than 12 equal payments. Interest at the rate of twelve (12) percent per annum shall be assessed on the balance beginning on the 1st day following discovery of the violation.

Section 10.5 Injunctive Relief.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this Ordinance. If a person has violated or continues to violate the provisions of this ordinance, the City of Vestavia Hills may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the person from activities which would create further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

Section 10.6 Compensatory Action.

In lieu of enforcement proceedings, penalties, and remedies authorized by this Ordinance, the City of Vestavia Hills may impose upon a violator alternative compensatory actions, such as storm drain stenciling, attendance at compliance workshops, creek cleanup, etc.

Section 10.7 Violations Deemed a Public Nuisance.

In addition to the enforcement processes and penalties provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and is declared and deemed a nuisance, and may be summarily abated or restored at the violator's expense, and/or a civil action to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken.

Section 10.8 Criminal Prosecution.

Any person that has violated or continues to violate this ordinance shall be liable to criminal prosecution to the fullest extent of the law, and shall be subject to a criminal penalty of \$500 dollars per violation per day and/or imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days.

The City of Vestavia Hills may recover all attorney's fees court costs and other expenses associated with enforcement of this ordinance, including sampling and monitoring expenses.

Section 10.9 Remedies Not Exclusive.

The remedies listed in this ordinance are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law and it is within the discretion of the City of Vestavia Hills to seek cumulative remedies.

Section 11
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 11.1 Applicability.

This ordinance shall apply to all water entering the storm drain system generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by the City of Vestavia Hills.

Section 11.2 Severability.

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Ordinance.

Section 11.3 Ultimate Responsibility.

The standards set forth herein and promulgated pursuant to this ordinance are minimum standards; therefore, this ordinance does not intend nor imply that compliance by any person will ensure that there will be no contamination, pollution, nor unauthorized discharge of pollutants.

Section 11.4 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be published as required by law and shall become effective the 1st day of July, 2018.

DONE, ORDERED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this the 11th day of June, 2018.

Ashley C. Curry
Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

Rebecca Leavings
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I, Rebecca H. Leavings, as City Clerk of the City of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, hereby certify that the above and foregoing copy of 1 (one) Ordinance # 2770 is a true and correct copy of such Ordinance that was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Vestavia Hills on the 11th day of June, 2018, as same appears in the official records of said City.

Posted at Vestavia Hills Municipal Center, Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest, and Vestavia Hills New Merkle House and Vestavia Hills Recreational Center this the _____ day of _____, 2018.

Rebecca Leavings
City Clerk