

# Highlands Region Quick Guide

# Navigating the 2023

# MS4 Permit Changes

The new municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit became effective on January 1, 2023 and introduced a number of significant changes for municipalities. Most notably, municipalities formerly classified as Tier B must now meet the same requirements as Tier A municipalities. Because meeting these requirements advances the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan (RMP), grant funding can be made available to *any* Highlands municipality for MS4 Permit compliance work.

## Step 1 :: Secure NJDEP funding

If you have not already, apply for the NJDEP funding.

- Simple one-page fillable PDF application.
- Must submit application by December 31, 2023.
- Funding can be used for other permit-related costs once specified deliverables are submitted.

### Former Tier B - \$75,000

- \$25k as soon as you submit the application.
- \$50k upon completion of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SP3).  
*Due 1/1/24*

### Tier A: \$25,000

- \$15k as soon as you submit the application.
- \$10k upon completion of MS4 Infrastructure Mapping.  
*Due 1/1/26*

### NJDEP MS4 Permit Templates, Forms and Guidance

[dep.nj.gov/njpdcs-stormwater/municipal-stormwater-regulation-program/tier\\_a/](http://dep.nj.gov/njpdcs-stormwater/municipal-stormwater-regulation-program/tier_a/)

## Step 2 :: Develop a timeline

Develop a timeline for the remaining components noting estimated costs and funding sources. The Highlands Council can help with this step and can fund many of the tasks.

Task	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Year (s)
Infrastructure Mapping	\$\$	NJDEP, Highlands Council	2023, 2024, 2025
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	\$\$	NJDEP, Highlands Council	2023
BMP Manual, Stormwater Management Plan, New/Revised Ordinances, WIP—Phase I	\$\$	Highlands Council	2023, 2024, 2025
Inlet Labeling	\$\$	Local/Other	2023+

*example*

### Highlands Council Stormwater Management Information

[www.nj.gov/njhighlands/stormwater](http://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/stormwater)

## Step 3 :: Access Highlands Council funding and expertise

The Highlands Council can be a valuable partner in helping meet MS4 permit requirements. Staff liaisons will work with your municipal team to help identify tasks that the Highlands Council can fund and assist with the development of an implementation timeline. Eligible activities include planning, design and engineering costs.

### Highlands Council Grants

- ✓ Non competitive
- ✓ No match required
- ✓ No minimum or maximum
- ✓ No application deadlines
- ✓ Reimbursement based
- ✓ Require an approved scope (models will be provided)
- ✓ Pending availability of funding from treasury

# What's due when?

Of the 58 requirements listed on the NJDEP's 2023 Deliverables Timelines for the MS4 Permit Renewal, 50 of them are new or modified for former Tier B towns, and 35 are new or modified for the legacy Tier A towns. Below is a general summary of requirements in each year. **Items in blue can be funded by the Highlands Council.**

## Tier B to Tier A

### 2023

#### Priorities

- Apply for NJDEP funding
- Develop timeline to complete permit requirements
- Apply for Highlands Council funding
- Develop Stormwater Prevention and Pollution Plan
- Create municipal stormwater webpage
- Infrastructure mapping

#### Due this year

- New and updated ordinances
- Storage and maintenance plans
- Initiate annual inspections
- Training activities
- Some infrastructure installation

### 2024

#### Due Jan 1

- Stormwater Prevention and Pollution Plan
- Municipal stormwater webpage
- New and updated ordinances
- Storage and maintenance plans
- Training activities

#### Priorities

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan

### 2025

#### Priorities

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 1

### 2026

#### Due Jan 1

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 1
- New and updated maintenance plans
- Training activities

#### Priority

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 2

### 2027

#### Due Jan 1

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 2

#### Priority/Due by end of year

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 3

APPLY FOR NJDEP FUNDING  
before 12/31/23

## Tier A

### 2023

#### Priorities

- Apply for NJDEP funding
- Develop timeline to complete permit requirements
- Apply for Highlands Council funding
- Infrastructure mapping

#### Due this year

- Stormwater Prevention and Pollution Plan
- Municipal Stormwater Webpage
- New and updated ordinances
- Storage and maintenance plans
- Initiate annual inspections
- Training activities
- Some infrastructure installation

### 2024

#### Due Jan 1

- New erosion control ordinance and measures
- New storage plans

#### Priorities

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan
- New and updated maintenance plans
- Training activities

### 2025

#### Priorities

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 1

### 2026

#### Due Jan 1

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 1
- New and updated maintenance plans
- Training activities

#### Priority

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 2

### 2027

#### Due Jan 1

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 2

#### Priority/Due by end of year

- Watershed Improvement Plan Phase 3