

# Navigating 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.

The 5-year timeline to complete the permit requirements is summarized on the back of [this handout](#). Because meeting these requirements advances the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan (RMP), grant funding and technical assistance has been made available to Highlands municipalities for MS4 Permit compliance work.

## Support Available for MS4 Permit Compliance

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.

Separate model scopes of works are available for municipalities transitioning from Tier B to Tier A and legacy Tier A municipalities.

Although the deadline to apply for Highlands Council funding has passed, additional rounds may be opened pending availability of funds.

To-date, the Highlands Council has awarded more than \$1.5 million to 30 Highlands region municipalities to support MS4 Permit compliance.

## Highlands Council Grants

- ✓ **Non-competitive**
- ✓ **No match required**
- ✓ **No minimum or maximum**
- ✓ **Eligible applicants:**  
Highlands municipal and county governments
- ✓ **Eligible expenses:**  
planning, design, and engineering costs
- ✓ **Reimbursement-based**
- ✓ **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

## 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

Incomplete tasks should  
be carried forward

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

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