

From: [The Stormwater Report](#)
To: [Susan Boynton](#)
Subject: The Stormwater Report: From planning to permitting, stormwater apps help industrial property-owners
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Stormwater Report



Storm Feature



From planning to permitting, stormwater apps help industrial property owners

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begins to focus on stricter regulations to deter industrial stormwater pollution as one of its National Enforcement Initiatives for the next 3 years, administrators of large industrial properties may want to consider new solutions to maximize the efficiency of their runoff management systems.

Emerging technologies — such as cloud computing and geographic information system (GIS) mapping — offer ways for industrial stormwater managers to gather and interpret data as never before possible. Whether planning new infrastructure, optimizing existing infrastructure, or navigating regulatory requirements, stormwater professionals can save valuable time, effort, and funds by embracing new technologies. [Read more](#)

Storm News



Removing fallen leaves can improve urban water quality

The timely removal of leaf litter can reduce harmful phosphorus concentrations in stormwater by more than 80% in Madison, Wis., according to a recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study. Autumn leaf litter contributes a significant amount of phosphorus to urban stormwater, the study found.

The USGS-led study, *Evaluation of Leaf Removal as a Means To Reduce Nutrient Concentrations and*

Loads in Urban Stormwater, found that without removal, leaf litter and other organic debris in the fall contributed 56% of the annual total phosphorus load in urban stormwater compared to only 16% when streets were cleared of leaves prior to a rain event. [Read more](#)

Telescopic walls could rise on demand to stop flood waters

A University at Buffalo (UB; N.Y.) Ph.D. student has created what he hopes become “rise on-demand” flood walls. Jorge Cueto devised a patent-pending system of telescoping rectangular fiber-reinforced concrete boxes. The walls can be installed below ground level, to avoid blocking any water views, and can be raised when the threat of flooding occurs. Cueto also recently won the university’s Engineering & Applied Sciences Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

His invention, called Smart Walls, won a \$225,000 Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Science Foundation. He had earlier won \$8000 in seed funding from the Entrepreneurial Lab, a joint effort of the university’s School of Management; Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach; and the undergraduate Entrepreneurship Academy, to get the project going.

[Read more](#)

Ontario Environmental Commissioner releases 4-step stormwater funding reform plan

According to the latest installment of Canada’s annual Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, more than 650 stormwater-related urban floods throughout the country levied damages to more than 66,000 private properties between 2009 and 2016.

To help prevent these damages, fix existing stormwater infrastructure, and accommodate future growth, the office of Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) published a report, titled *Urban Stormwater Fees: How to Pay for What We Need*. The report, released on Nov. 15, offers the Ontario government four recommendations poised to make stormwater programs not only effective at reducing flood severity and frequency, but also cost-effective. [Read more](#)

StormWater Management



To green or not to green: Why decision-making matters for green stormwater infrastructure adoption

Investment in stormwater infrastructure on private property, where the majority of runoff originates, should be encouraged through financial incentives. A feature article in this issue discusses why private property stormwater adoption is so important and gives an overview of current research findings that explain ways in which consumption-based programs for stormwater infrastructure are more likely to be successful.



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