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**From:** [The Stormwater Report](#)  
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**To:** [sboynton@pwea.org](mailto:sboynton@pwea.org)  
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## Study: Beavers Transform Forests into Wetlands Over Many Decades

In urban environments, humans pave over landscapes that would otherwise absorb stormwater. However, it turns out humans are not the only species that disrupts natural hydrological processes as their habitats develop. By cutting trees, digging canals, and building dams, beaver colonies shape their forest dwellings in ways that transform flooding patterns, the local food chain, and the structure and size of nearby waterways. But these effects, in the long run, often benefit stormwater management and water quality by creating huge swaths of new wetland habitats. [A new study by researchers in Finland explores these long-term shifts over nearly 50 years.](#)

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### Interested in Industrial Stormwater Management?

Help set a course for WEF's new Industrial Stormwater Workgroup and get the chance to win a \$25 gift card.

[Take the survey](#)

## WEF Stormwater Experts Offer Feedback on 2020 Industrial Stormwater Permit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) helps a broad range of industrial facilities manage their discharges by providing specific requirements for effluent characteristics, inspection procedures, and monitoring practices that relate to all segments of the industrial sector. In June, experts from the Water Environment Federation answered EPA's call for water-sector feedback about proposed changes to the 2020 MSGP. [Learn more about how stormwater professionals are advocating for a clear, robust, and actionable update to the MSGP.](#)

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## Build an At-Home ‘Storm in a Glass’ to Engage Kids in Stormwater

Effective stormwater management goes beyond utilities and regulatory agencies. Individuals need to participate, too. Helping these stakeholders understand the importance of stormwater and the forces that drive it is an effort that can begin at home. In April, *Popular Science* featured a simple, 10-minute experiment aimed at helping children better understand precipitation and flooding. The simple demonstration requires only water, food coloring, shaving cream, and common kitchenware. [Teach kids about how storms form and the importance of proper flood management from your kitchen counter.](#)

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## New Report Underscores Funding Needs For U.S. Stormwater Sector

According to the latest U.S. EPA estimates, bolstering stormwater infrastructure to effective levels will require nearly \$70 billion during the next 20 years. However, EPA reports that only about 1,600 out of more than 7,500 U.S. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees have a dedicated stormwater funding source in place, such as a stormwater tax or stormwater utility fee. A new report, *Evaluating Stormwater Infrastructure Funding and Financing*, explores the U.S. stormwater funding gap and recommends ways to address it. [Read more about the authors' ideas to help strengthen and streamline the process of funding stormwater management projects.](#)

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