

EXPLANATION: This Ordinance establishes regulations/requirements for private storm drain inlet retrofitting throughout the Borough in compliance with NJDEP requirements.

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR
PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING
THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Far Hills, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. The following requirements and regulations shall be established in the Borough of Far Hills:

PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING

Article I Purpose.

An ordinance requiring the retrofitting of existing storm drain inlets which are in direct contact with repaving, repairing, reconstruction, or resurfacing or alterations of facilities on private property, to prevent the discharge of solids and floatables (such as plastic bottles, cans, food wrappers and other litter) to the municipal separate storm sewer system(s) operated by the Borough of Far Hills so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

Article II Definitions.

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

a. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) – a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that is owned or operated by the Borough of Far Hills or other public body, and is designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater.

b. Person – any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.

c. Storm drain inlet - an opening in a storm drain used to collect stormwater runoff and includes, but is not limited to, a grate inlet, curb-opening inlet, slotted inlet, and combination inlet.

d. Waters of the State – means the ocean and its estuaries, all springs, streams and bodies of surface or ground water, whether natural or artificial, within the boundaries of the State of New Jersey or subject to its jurisdiction.

Article III Prohibited Conduct.

No person in control of private property (except a residential lot with one single family house) shall authorize the repaving, repairing (excluding the repair of individual potholes), resurfacing (including top coating or chip sealing with asphalt emulsion or a thin base of hot bitumen), reconstructing or altering any surface that is in direct contact with an existing storm drain inlet on that property unless the storm drain inlet either: 1. Already meets the design standard below to control passage of solid and floatable materials; or 2. Is retrofitted or replaced to meet the standard in Article IV below prior to the completion of the project.

Article IV Design Standard.

Storm drain inlets identified in Article III above shall comply with the following standard to control passage of solid and floatable materials through storm drain inlets. For purposes of this paragraph, “solid and floatable materials” means sediment, debris, trash, and other floating, suspended, or settleable solids. For exemptions to this standard see Article IV.3 below.

1. Design engineers shall use either of the following grates whenever they use a grate in pavement or another ground surface to collect stormwater from that surface into a storm drain or surface water body under that grate:

a. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) bicycle safe grate, which is described in Chapter 2.4 of the NJDOT Bicycle Compatible Roadways and Bikeways Planning and Design Guidelines (April 1996); or

b. A different grate, if each individual clear space in that grate has an area of no more than seven (7.0) square inches, or is no greater than 0.5 inches across the smallest dimension. Examples of grates subject to this standard include grates in grate inlets, the grate portion (non-curb-opening portion) of combination inlets, grates on storm sewer manholes, ditch grates, trench grates, and grates of spacer bars in slotted drains. Examples of ground surfaces include surfaces of roads (including bridges), driveways, parking areas, bikeways, plazas, sidewalks, lawns, fields, open channels, and stormwater basin floors.

2. Whenever design engineers use a curb-opening inlet, the clear space in that curb opening (or each individual clear space, if the curb opening has two or more clear spaces) shall have an area of no more than seven (7.0) square inches, or be no greater than two (2.0) inches across the smallest dimension.

3. This standard does not apply:

a. Where the municipal engineer agrees that this standard would cause inadequate hydraulic performance that could not practicably be overcome by using additional or larger storm drain inlets that meet these standards;

b. Where flows are conveyed through any device (e.g., end of pipe netting facility, manufactured treatment device, or a catch basin hood) that is designed, at a minimum, to prevent delivery of all solid and floatable materials that could not pass through one of the following: i. A rectangular space four and five-eighths inches long and one and one-half inches wide (this option does not apply for outfall netting facilities); or ii. A bar screen having a bar spacing of 0.5 inches.

c. Where flows are conveyed through a trash rack that has parallel bars with one-inch (1") spacing between the bars; or

d. Where the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determines, pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.2(c), that action to meet this standard is an undertaking that constitutes an encroachment or will damage or destroy the New Jersey Register listed historic property.

Article V Enforcement.

This Ordinance shall be enforced by the Police Department, Zoning Officer, and/or Construction Code Enforcement Official or designated representative of the Borough of Far Hills.

Article VI Penalties.

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to the general penalty provisions of the Borough of Far Hills for each storm drain inlet that is not retrofitted to meet the design standard.

Section 2. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of Far Hills, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern, and the inconsistencies of the prior ordinance are hereby repealed. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Ordinances of the Borough of Far Hills are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.


Section 4. Within five (5) days after its adoption by the Council, this Ordinance shall be presented to the Mayor for his approval and signature, which approval shall be granted or denied within ten (10) days of receipt of same, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5(d). If the Mayor fails to return this Ordinance with either his approval or objection to same within ten (10) days after it has been presented to him, then this Ordinance shall be deemed approved.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon (1) adoption; (2) approval by the Mayor pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5(d); and (3) publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Introduced: November 13, 2023
Published: November 16, 2023
Adopted: November 27, 2023
Published: November 30, 2023

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS



Dorothy S. Hicks
Borough Clerk

By: 

Kevin P. Welsh
Mayor